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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. We have a guest Chaplain this morning to open the morning prayer, Rabbi Israel Poleyeff. The rabbi was invited by Senator D'AMATO, of New York. We are pleased to have him with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Honorable Rabbi Israel Poleyeff, Brooklyn, NY, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God: We ask Thy blessings upon the distinguished Members of this Senate of the United States of America. Give them insight to understand the concerns and problems of all the people of this blessed land; bless them with wisdom to enact laws that will benefit all its inhabitants, and imbue them with courage to make difficult decisions for the public good.

For more than a century, millions of immigrants, my father's family amongst them, came to these shores seeking freedom from tyranny and oppression. To this very day our beloved country still serves as a beacon of light to those to whom freedom is but an elusive ideal.

To this very day our country still stands as a shining example of individual liberty and limitless opportunity.

More than two centuries ago, our Founding Fathers created a nation in which every individual had the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Members of this Senate have the awesome responsibility of seeing that those goals remain the hallmark of our Nation.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, imbue them with wisdom, understanding, and knowledge to hold aloft the banner of freedom and the torch of liberty, so that all the inhabitants of this country shall be privileged to live, work, and

worship their God as they choose and without fear. May our country be the leader among nations in ushering in an era of universal peace and harmony so that the words of the prophet may be fulfilled in our time, when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor shall they learn war anymore." May this be Thy will. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is now recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this morning, the leader time has been reserved and there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each, except for the following: Senator DOMENICI, 20 minutes; Senator DASCHLE or his designee, 30 minutes; Senator SIMPSON, 10 minutes; Senator KERREY, 10 minutes; Senator COVERDELL, 15 minutes; Senator NUNN, 10 minutes; and Senator COATS, 10 minutes.

At 11:30 today, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1158, the supplemental appropriations bill. The majority leader has indicated that roll-call votes are expected throughout the day in order to make progress on the bill. Also, a cloture motion was filed on the bill last night, so a cloture vote will occur Thursday, unless an agreement can be reached with respect to the bill.

Mr. President, I understand the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, Senator THURMOND, desires to

speak for 2 minutes. I yield the floor and then I will use my 20 minutes.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). The Senator from South Carolina.

THE RETIREMENT OF MACK FLEMING, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR, HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Mack Fleming, who has recently retired as minority staff director of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, after more than 20 years of service on the committee.

A native of Hartwell, GA, Mr. Fleming was educated in the public schools of Anderson County, SC. He graduated from my alma mater, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, after which he entered the U.S. Army. He also earned a law degree from the Washington College of Law, American University, Washington, DC.

In the military, he served with the 2d Armored Division in Europe and he was a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Mr. Fleming has a long and distinguished career in public service, both in the Congress and the executive branch. He began that career in 1960 as the administrative assistant to Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn, of the Third Congressional District of South Carolina.

In 1965, Mack Fleming moved to the executive branch, first as the director and counsel of the Congressional Liaison Office at the Veterans Administration, then served as Special Assistant to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

After a short interval, during which he was engaged in the private practice of law, Mr. Fleming returned to Capitol

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Hill in 1974 as chief counsel to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. In 1981, "Mack," as he is known among his friends and colleagues, became chief counsel and staff director of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, where he served through the 103d Congress. For the past 3 months he has served as the minority staff director of the committee, retiring from that position last Friday, March 31, 1995.

During his tenure, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee worked in a bipartisan manner to improve the medical care, compensation, and other benefits to our Nations' deserving veterans. Mack Fleming earned the respect of Members of Congress and staff because of his professionalism, knowledge, and ability. He worked with all sides on the issues, to ensure that all views were heard and to build consensus where possible.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I appreciated Mack's expertise, experience, and skill as we worked together on many issues. The Congress benefited from his service and his leadership, and I know he will be missed.

I congratulate this fine public servant, a man of integrity, capability, and character. I extend my best wishes to his wife, Elizabeth, and their children—John, who attends Clemson University, and Katherine, who practices law in Texas. I wish him well in his retirement, as he and his wife return to Seneca, SC, where I am sure they will enjoy the views, recreation, and quieter life on the shores of Lake Keowee.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI] is recognized to speak for up to 20 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. DORGAN pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 103 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I listened to the statement made by the Senators from New Mexico and South Dakota and others about character. I do not know all the aspects of this resolution, I just know some of the things I have heard here on the floor, but I kept hearing reference made to values

and we have to start teaching values to our young people.

I agree with that. I think our young people ought to learn values. But, you know, perhaps we ought to look at ourselves first as teachers. Perhaps we ought to start looking at the Congress of the United States. What values are we sending out to the American people? What are the young people of America—what kind of values are they getting from the U.S. Government? That is what I want to speak about this morning, the Contract With America. Its 100 days are up this week, and I want to talk about that Contract With America.

Now, I think I want to talk about it in the context of values and character, because the values that are being sent across America from the Government of the United States is simply this: If you have it made and you have a lot of money, the Government is there to help you and make you more comfortable. If you do not and you are at the bottom rung of the ladder, forget it. You are out in the cold.

Values? You want to talk about a resolution dealing with values? Let us talk about the Contract With America and what values it represents. With any contract you have to ask, who benefits and who loses? Who wins and who loses on a contract? The answer now is crystal clear. The winners are the billionaires, the super wealthy, the special interest Washington lobbyists. They get the credit card. They have the night out on the town. They go to the fancy restaurant. The losers are the hard-working middle-class, children, students, pregnant women, the elderly, the disabled. They get to pick up the bill for the superwealthy. I know that may sound like rhetoric, but the facts are there. Let us look at it. Let us not just get caught up in rhetoric, let us look at the facts.

Here is a chart that we had drawn just to show what is happening in my State of Iowa under the Contract With America, Mr. GINGRICH's contract, the Republicans' contract. Here we are. Two percent of the Iowa population has an income of \$100,000 or more. They get 50 percent of the benefits under the contract. And 86 percent of Iowans have incomes of \$50,000 or less. They only get 20 percent of the benefits.

One more time. If you are in the upper income bracket, 2 percent of the Iowans making over \$100,000 a year, you get 50 percent of all the benefits in the Contract With America. If you are a hard-working, average Iowan making less than \$50,000, you will only get 20 percent of the benefits.

Values? You want to talk about values? Let us talk about values. That is the message that is being sent out around America today: If you are on the top of the heap, the Government is there to help you and make you even more comfortable, give you more tax breaks. You want to talk about values, let us talk about values.

Then we just had a recent example of really giving it to the superwealthy, the so-called Benedict Arnold amendment. Senator BRADLEY tried to close a loophole in the law. The House would not hear of it and they knocked it out. We heard a lot of debate on the floor about that last week. Imagine this, what the House Republican leadership has said is that if you make a billion dollars in America and you get all these capital assets and then you renounce your citizenship, you get a big tax windfall. You do not have to pay a lot of these taxes. You can still live in America 4 months out of the year, you can live on the French Riviera 4 months out of the year, you can live in South America 4 months out of the year, you can jet all around the year but you do not have to pay your taxes and you can still own your property and stuff in America. That is why I call it the Benedict Arnold approach, the Benedict Arnold amendment. You can turn your back on the country that made you rich.

What the Contract With America says is, hey, we are going to give you a big tax break, the Benedict Arnold approach. The middle class has to pick it up.

Students. What is happening with students? Under the Contract With America, 94,000 students will pay more for their college loans. That is a tax on students. No one is talking about it. We are taxing students in America as much as \$3,150 in additional cost to each student if they require payment of interest while in school and we do not have the grace period before they get a job.

You know, old NEWT GINGRICH and I have a little bit in common. We went to college on the National Defense Educational Loans. I went to a window in the school, got the money, borrowed the money, went to college, but I went to the military after college. Mr. Gingrich did not.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's 5 minutes has expired.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for an additional 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator has an additional 5 minutes.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I spent 5 years in the military. Mr. GINGRICH did not. That is all right. So I did not have to pay it back then. So then I went to law school and I did not still have to pay it back. It was after I finished law school that I started to pay back the loan, and the interest started at that point in time. I think that is what Mr. GINGRICH said he did, too. He just did not go to the military, but he had the same benefit. But he is saying what was good for me is not good for you. He wants to close that now. He said, "Students, as soon as you start borrowing money you have to pay interest on it right away." That is a tax on students any way you cut it. I am saying it was good for me and it ought to be good for