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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, thank You for the stirrings in our minds and the longings in our hearts that are sure evidence that You are calling us into prayer. Long before we call, You answer by creating the desire to renew our relationship with You. You allow that feeling of emptiness in the pit of our being to alert us to our hunger for fellowship with You. Our thirst for Your truth, our quest for Your solutions to our Nation's needs, and our yearning for Your answers to our problems are all assurances that before we articulated our prayers, You were preparing the answers. It is a magnificent, liberating thought that all through this day when we cry out for Your help, it is You who have given us the courage to give up our dogged self-reliance and start drawing on the supernatural strength and superabundant wisdom You have been waiting for us to ask for so You could bless us. Thank You for a day filled with serendipities of your interventions. I pray this in the name of Jesus who taught us how to trust You completely. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, the Senate will be in session for a period of morning business today until the hour of 4 p.m. The time will be divided equally

between both sides, with 2 hours for the Republican side and 2 hours under the control of the Democrats. There will be no rollcall votes during today's session. The Senate may consider any legislative items that can be cleared for action by unanimous consent.

All Senators should be reminded that the continuing resolution expires on Friday. It is expected, therefore, that the Senate will consider a new continuing resolution when one becomes available from the House. The Senate may also consider the Department of Defense authorization conference report as well as the START II Treaty.

Senators should be on notice that based on preliminary responses from both sides of the aisle, it appears at this time that rollcall votes will occur during Friday's session of the Senate. However, we do not expect them to occur prior to the hour of 2 p.m. on Friday.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 4 p.m., equally divided between the majority and minority.

The able Senator from Maine is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. COHEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1525 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. COHEN. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FAIRCLOTH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, when I was elected to the Senate in 1992, I was one of five Republican Senators elected that year. But, I was the only Senator who defeated a Democratic incumbent in the November election, in what many would consider a year dominated by Democrats.

I was a new conservative voice, in a town where the Presidency and both Houses of Congress were controlled by liberal Democrats.

During those first 2 years, I opposed many of the initiatives of the coming out of the Congress. I voted against President Clinton's budget, because I did not think raising taxes was the answer to cutting the deficit.

I opposed raising taxes on Social Security.

I opposed his health care plan, which I think would have nationalized health care in this country, which is the last thing we needed.

But the elections in November 1994 changed all of this. For the first time in 40 years, the American people elected a Republican House and Senate. In my opinion, because of this, the changes have been dramatic.

For years, popular initiatives that the American public have wanted have been stalled or bottled up in the Congress.

The 104th Congress—the Republican Congress—has finally broken the logjam.

Look at what this Congress has passed. It has been significant.

We voted to apply to the Congress the employment laws that we pass which businesses have to put up with. As of a few days ago, many in Congress are getting a taste of the laws that we

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



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S 355

have imposed on the employers of this country for many, many years. Many of the Congressmen are having trouble coping with them and have not even begun to understand the implications of what we passed.

Both Houses have passed versions of a line-item veto for the President.

Both Houses passed legislation to increase penalties for child pornography. This has been signed into law.

Both Houses have passed new gift rules for Members of Congress and staff.

Both Houses have passed and signed into law a bill restricting unfunded mandates that we place on States—one of our most important and best pieces of legislation.

Both Houses of Congress have passed welfare reform, ending a destructive 30 year entitlement program, and replacing it with assistance that requires personal responsibility and work. Regrettably, the President vetoed the bill. He said he wanted welfare reform, and when we gave it to him he vetoed it.

The Congress passed legislation to provide a tax credit for families with children. The Congress voted to repeal the Clinton tax increase on Social Security. But, again, the President vetoed both of them.

The President also vetoed legislation that would balance the budget in 7 years. In fact, the President had to be forced after months—and three budgets, to finally produce a budget that was balanced using honest numbers.

Mr. President, the first session of the 104th Congress was an active one—in which many important issues were addressed. I think the American people can be pleased with the job the Republican Congress has done.

Certainly, it has kept its promises—more than any other Congress in my recent memory.

Even the President seems to have picked up on the message of the Republican Congress. In his State of the Union, he said “the era of big government was over.” And we will make it over quicker, if he will stop vetoing the legislation that we pass.

No longer are we talking about starting new Government programs, like health care, but we are talking about getting our fiscal house in order for the future and stability of this country.

In the second session, there are a number of items I think we must tackle.

We need to take up regulatory reform. Compliance with these regulations is costly. It is destructive and time consuming. Regulatory reform legislation would impose a cost benefit analyses for regulations with an annual cost of \$50 million.

The Senate also needs to vote on term limits as soon as possible. I am an original cosponsor of legislation to limit Senators to two terms.

Finally, Mr. President, we need to take up the constitutional amendment to balance the budget. Probably no

issue is more important to our country than this one. We are nearly \$5 trillion in debt, and it will have to be increased right away. It is long past time that we pass the balanced budget amendment.

Every year Americans work longer and harder just to pay their Federal taxes, and every year more and more of that money is being used to pay the interest on the debt. The debt grows, and the amount necessary to service it grows with it. We are truly imposing a massive financial burden on our children and progeny yet unborn. It is wrong, and it is our responsibility to stop it.

In the Senate we fell only one vote short of passing a balanced budget amendment. I hope the majority leader will bring this issue back before the Senate before we adjourn, and I certainly hope that one of the Senators could be persuaded to change his view on this critical issue. It would mean more to the future and stability of this country than anything I can think of at this time.

STATEMENT HONORING THE OLLISON'S FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, these are trying times for the family in America. Unfortunately, too many broken homes have become part of our national culture. It is tragic that nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce. The effects of divorce on families and particularly the children of broken families are devastating. In such an era, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of “til death us do part” seriously and have successfully demonstrated the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity, to build a strong family. These qualities make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Raymond and Charlene Ollison who on February 2 are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and will renew their wedding vows. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Raymond and Charlene's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this substantial marker on their journey together.

CURBING YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, after 2½ years of inexplicable delay, on January 19, 1996, the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] issued final regulations concerning tobacco sales to minors for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA].

These SAMHSA regulations implement the Alcohol, Drug and Mental

Health Block Grants [ADAMHA] Reauthorization Act of 1992, which required States to prohibit the sale and distribution of tobacco products to minors, take steps to enforce that prohibition and report annually to HHS, or lose Federal substance abuse block grants. While HHS dallied over the final SAMSHA regulations, the Food and Drug Administration—itsself an arm of HHS—proposed a highly intrusive new set of regulations governing tobacco sales, distribution, labeling, advertising, and marketing.

I support the approach taken by the SAMSHA regulations. As Congress specifically required in the ADAMHA Reauthorization Act, the SAMSHA regulations give States the maximum degree of flexibility while ensuring that States do in fact take strong steps to stop the sale of tobacco products to minors. The SAMSHA regulations will accomplish the same goal that FDA professes to want—reducing the use of tobacco by minors—in a shorter time for less money and with much less Government interference.

The Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation in 1994 to address ADAMHA compliance. As an example, the State Department of Agriculture, with assistance from local law enforcement officials, must conduct random, unannounced inspections. Persons under the age of 18 may be enlisted to test compliance, provided that parental consent has been given. Kentucky has also established sign requirements, license requirements, and vending machine restrictions.

Mr. President, I represent 60,000 hard-working tobacco farm families and thousands of hard-working individuals who are involved in the manufacturing and retail of tobacco products. Under the SAMSHA regulations, tobacco growers and others involved in the tobacco industry can rest assured that they will not be subjected to excessive government interference. States where tobacco is grown will be free to craft laws that take into account the needs and interests of tobacco growers. Tobacco growers will not be treated as the enemy. On the other hand, FDA's proposed regulations would treat nicotine as an addictive drug and position the FDA to march on every tobacco farm in the United States. FDA's proposal is unacceptable.

Tobacco already is one of the most heavily regulated products in the United States. More than a dozen Federal agencies have jurisdiction over some aspect of tobacco production, sales, or advertising. In light of this fact, Congress authorized SAMSHA not to impose sweeping Federal tobacco regulations, but instead to encourage States to prevent youth access to tobacco.

Mr. President, I strongly believe that minors should not use or purchase tobacco products. I also believe the most effective way to prevent minors from using or purchasing tobacco products lies in the strict enforcement of laws already in effect in each of the 50