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Senate

The Senate met at 11:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Gracious Lord, the divine Potter of our lives, our days are in Your hands. Shape the clay as You have planned. May the day work out exactly as You have arranged it for Your glory and our growth. We say with the psalmist, 'I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.'—Psalm 40:8. We long to know what is best for our Nation. Now at the beginning of another day, we commit to You the challenges and decisions that are ahead of us. We desire to glorify You, so show us what You desire. With inspired intentionality, we put our relationship with You first and make our primary goal what is best for our Nation.

This morning, gracious Lord, we thank You for the newly elected Republican leadership. We ask Your special blessing to be upon TRENT LOTT and DON NICKLES as they work together closely with TOM DASCHLE and WENDELL FORD and the leadership of both parties to seek Your glory and to do Your will.

We pray this prayer in the name of the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The new majority leader, the able Senator TRENT LOTT from Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President. We appreciate your leadership and all that you do for your State and for our country.

A DAY ALL SENATORS WILL REMEMBER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, yesterday was a day of ceremony and tribute in the Senate. It was a day of testimonials, emotional farewells, and I think really a high point for this institution in the years that I have been here, because in a very bipartisan way, we all talked about the institution of the Senate and what it means to us as individuals, the uniqueness of how it operates, and what it means for our country.

Obviously, the Republican Members were touched by the moment that we saw our leader of so many years, Bob Dole, exit the Chamber. But I also was struck by the fact that the Democratic leadership—in fact, all of our colleagues on that side of the aisle—showed emotion and felt the specialness of that moment, as was exhibited by the outstanding remarks of the distinguished Democratic leader who sits here today.

It was a day that all Senators will remember, just as we will always remember the leadership of Bob Dole.

Today, the Senate returns to business, and I am honored and humbled to stand here as the Senate majority leader. It is also a pleasure to have with me in our leadership team the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, Senator NICKLES, who will serve as the assistant majority leader, the whip. I know that he will do a great job, and I look forward to working with him and us working together as a team with the Democratic leadership. We have already met with their entire leadership team, and I think we are off to a very positive start.

Also, I want to, again, refer to my distinguished colleague from Mississippi. We have stood together now through 23½ years in the Congress. He is truly a great leader for our State and for our country. He sort of blazed the trail in our State for a Republican

Party that used to meet in a very small room with room left over. He was the first Senator who was elected as a Republican from our State of Mississippi. So he has set an example for all of us. He is an important part of a team for our State that I will always enjoy working with. He will continue as the chairman of our conference.

He will be joined by the secretary of the conference, CONNIE MACK of Florida, and the newly elected chairman of the policy committee, Senator CRAIG of Idaho.

Just as Senator Dole did yesterday in his final speech from this podium, I begin my first remarks as majority leader by thanking those to whom I am indebted for the privilege of serving in the Senate.

Foremost among those, other than my beloved Mississippi constituents, are the members of my family. People who know me best know that my highest priority on this Earth is my family. I love my work in the Senate, but I will always give the highest priority to my family. To my parents, who instilled the values which still guide my life, and my wife and our two children, Tricia, Chet, and Tyler, they have always been patient and understanding as I pursued public service. They have been my inspiration. And they are today.

I thank the people of Mississippi for honoring me with their trust each time I have asked for it. And, of course, I thank my Republican colleagues for allowing me to serve in a role that has been filled by so many giants in the Senate in the past.

I am the first majority leader in history from my State of Mississippi, a poor State but a State that is struggling to pull itself up and move forward. It is a State that has gone from the bottom rung of every economic indicator to now being identified as one

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



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of the 10 top growth States in the Nation. We are proud to be a part of the Nation's team. Mississippi will always, in the future, do everything we can to play our part of contributing to a better America.

It is no wonder that we are humbled when we reach these positions. I am most humbled because I know of the work we have to do. In fact, I had a friend this morning ask me, "Where's the party? Where's the celebration?" I said, "Well, there'll be no party. There'll be no celebration. There'll be a lot of 'thank you's,' and then this comment: Let's go to work."

To friends on the other side of the aisle, let me say that one lesson I learned very well from Bob Dole is that this place cannot operate effectively for our country if the two leaders do not have a relationship of complete trust and respect. Senator DASCHLE had that relationship with Senator Dole. And he will have it from me. We have been friends for many years in the House, now in the Senate. I have talked to a lot of his colleagues. I believe we can work together. Oh, we will disagree. We will have some good debate. But we will always remember that the best thing for us to do is to work together for our country. We can find a way to do that.

Mr. President, I do have just some brief comments on today's schedule. I am glad to withhold those if the Senator would like to comment at this point.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Democratic leader is recognized.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will be very brief. Let me compliment the distinguished majority leader on his remarks, and congratulate him on his election. His leadership team sits among those on the floor today who demonstrate, in my view, a new generation of leadership, a generation that has had a good deal of experience, a generation that represents geographical diversity, a generation that I believe recognizes the importance of governance. We look forward to the opportunity of serving together.

As I consider the past, as I consider the record and the résumé of the distinguished majority leader, I find many things in common. He is from a small State, as am I. He was a staff member, as was I. He was a Member of the House, and now a Member of the Senate for not that long a period of time. And so given those similar experiences and given what I know to be his desire to lead and to govern and to work together, I begin this day and this new period in this session of Congress with great expectations, with optimism, with the belief that we can, as he just indicated, come together, as Senator Dole suggested we do yesterday.

I thought it was revealing yesterday in the remarkable speech made by the

former majority leader that the most significant accomplishments that he chose to recognize as he looked back over his past were those accomplishments that were forged through bipartisan efforts. That included, of course, the legislation for the disabled, it included nutrition legislation, it included an array of issues dealing with civil rights.

The majority leader looked back fondly at those accomplishments and called upon all of us to remember the great Senators who have come before, Senators on both sides of the aisle.

I have no doubt that if, indeed, we are to rise again to that standard, that there can be no other alternative but for us to work together. So it is with that intent and with a sincere desire to do so that I congratulate the new team. And I look forward to working, beginning today, to forge that compromise, to strike the opportunities that we have while they are there, and to work to make this a better country.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Democratic leader for his remarks, and the remarks made in other forums by my good friend from North Dakota, Senator DORGAN.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each. Following morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the budget resolution conference report.

Under the order of last night, a vote will occur on the conference report at 3:30 today if the official papers have been presented to us from the House. I understand that the conference report may not be received by 3:30; therefore, the vote may occur on the budget later on today or even Thursday morning. But certainly I will consult with the Democratic leader on the exact time, and we will notify the Members as soon as that decision is made. The Senate may also be asked to consider any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). There will now be a period for morning business.

Mr. COCHRAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am very pleased to be able to rise on the

floor of the Senate today to congratulate my good friend and State colleague, TRENT LOTT, upon his election as the majority leader of the U.S. Senate.

You have to go back to 1937 to find an instance of a Mississippi Senator being so close to the powerful position that my friend now occupies. Senator Pat Harrison of Dove Port, MS, first was elected to Congress to represent the gulf coast district in Congress, and so was TRENT LOTT some many years later, 1972. Senator Harrison came to the Senate after serving several terms in the House and rose to become chairman of the Finance Committee here in the Senate, and he lost by one vote in a race to be the majority leader of the U.S. Senate. Incidentally, the Senator who won that election was Alben Barkley of Kentucky. After that, he became President pro tempore of the Senate. I mention this to put in context what has happened today. For the first time in history, a Mississippian has been elected majority leader of the U.S. Senate.

I feel very honored and pleased that I have had the pleasure and the privilege of serving with TRENT LOTT for almost 24 years in Congress, first in the House and now in the Senate. I want to commit to him my wholehearted support and my cooperation in helping make his service as majority leader of the Senate the most successful ever for any Senator.

We have been very fortunate in our State in having some outstanding representation, even though none had ever been chosen to serve as majority leader. As a matter of fact, this desk here has written in the drawer the names of some of those distinguished Senators, beginning with Jefferson Davis, who resigned his seat in the Senate from this desk when Mississippi seceded from the Union. It also contains the signatures of Pat Harrison, whom I mentioned, and John Sharp Williams, who was the minority whip in the House before being elected to the Senate.

So TRENT LOTT joins a list of very distinguished leaders of both Houses in representing our State in this very important capacity.

We know that the days ahead are going to be difficult. And I know all of the Members on our side are going to work very closely together. I trust the Members on the other side will, too, to help move the business of the Senate along.

There are some who are predicting gridlock, confrontation, mean-spirited, election-year posturing. Well, let us not have it happen. I challenge the Senate—and I know others feel this way, too—that we can achieve results that help solve problems for the American people in the time we have ahead of us this year. We can do it under the able, energetic, and very experienced leadership that TRENT LOTT brings to the job of majority leader.

So I appreciate very much having the opportunity of being in the same contest with him. Frankly, I learned a lot.