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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 1996, at 12 noon.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1996

The Senate met at 11 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:

Almighty God, Lord of new beginnings, we return to the work of the Senate after a month of party conventions and political campaigns. As we convene, it is difficult not to consider every issue in terms of the forthcoming elections. Our differences are sharply focused; the spirit of competition runs high; we are tempted to become users of our process here to posture our positions. Sometimes our eyes are on the polls and not on You, and our passion for winning vies with our passion for patriotism.

In this quiet moment, before we begin this day, and our fall season, we deliberately reorder our priorities. We renew our basic commitment to seek first Your will, what is best for America, and what will glorify You. May these priorities be the basis of our unity. Keep us close to You and open to each other. We commit to Your care our friends and brother Americans, Bill Clinton and AL GORE, Bob Dole and Jack Kemp, as they debate the issues and prepare for the November Presidential elections. Watch over their families and surround them with Your protection. We ask for Your guidance in dealing with the crisis of aggression by Saddam Hussein in the Kurdish zone of northern Iraq. Grant us wisdom each step of the way in this strategic situation. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

WELCOME BACK

Mr. LOTT. Welcome back, Mr. President. I hope you had a restful August period and time for renewal, as well as perhaps a little campaigning. I want to thank the Chaplain for opening the session in the way he has this morning, and extend a welcome back to my colleague, the Democratic leader, this morning, and hope he had time for rest and renewal, too, in addition to the conventions we both had to attend. I look forward to working with him during the next month or so.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. This morning, the Senate is resuming its business following the August adjournment. There will be a period for morning business until the hour of 2 p.m., with the first 90 minutes under the control of Senator DASCHLE or his designee and the second 90 minutes under the control of Senator COVERDELL or his designee. Immediately following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 3666, the VA-HUD appropriations bill.

As a reminder, there will be no roll-call votes during today's session. I hope amendments, though, will be offered and debated on the bill today, with those votes to occur tomorrow morning, hopefully, beginning at 9 or 9:30. I hope we complete action on the VA-HUD appropriations bill early this week so we may consider other available appropriations, as well as conference reports for such bills as the D.C. appropriations conference, the military construction appropriations conference, the legislative appropriations conference, as well as the Defense authorization conference report.

Also, this week we have a consent agreement with respect to the consideration of H.R. 3396, the Defense of Marriage Act. All Senators should be prepared for busy sessions of the Senate this week and the weeks to follow as we prepare to complete our business prior to the adjournment of this Congress.

Also, I should note that under the unanimous-consent agreement with relation to H.R. 3396, the Defense of Marriage Act, there were four amendments on each side that were provided for, and those amendments will need to be filed by 5 o'clock this afternoon or exchanged, so we can get a chance to look at the amendments that might be offered on Thursday of this week.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 3953

Mr. LOTT. I understand, Mr. President, that there is a bill due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3953) to combat terrorism.

Mr. LOTT. I object to further consideration of this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

PENDING ISSUES

Mr. LOTT. I might also note, before I yield the floor to the distinguished

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



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Democratic leader, that we have some important issues that we need to continue to work on that were pending as we went out of session. I hope we can begin to do that right away, in a bipartisan manner. I will be talking to Senator BRADLEY and the Democratic leader about a bill that he is very interested in, and maybe we can work on that some during the week and decide how that can be brought up.

Also, Members of the Senate and the House and the administration have been working to try to come to some agreement on the terrorism bill. If they would resume their work early this week, which I encourage, and not leave that to come up in some haphazard way later on in a week or two or three, but rather get back to it right quick in the cool of the evening, maybe we can come to some early agreement on that legislation.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ISSUES CONFRONTING THE SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me welcome back the distinguished majority leader and the Presiding Officer and indicate how pleased I am to have the opportunity, once again, to be working with him as we consider the many issues that we must confront in the short time that we have available to us. I trust, as well, that his month was productive and restful and successful in many respects.

I look forward to working with him on a number of the issues he mentioned. The one omission I cite, and I am sure it was an oversight, but I look forward to working with him on that as well, is the Executive Calendar, which was a matter that was unresolved prior to the time we left, and of great concern to colleagues on this side of the aisle.

I also indicate to the majority leader that it would be my hope that he and I could sponsor a joint resolution or a resolution which would indicate our support for the actions taken in Iraq. I hope there would be broad bipartisan, virtually unanimous, support for the actions taken. I intend to talk with the distinguished majority leader about that throughout the day.

Mr. President, we have a lot of work to do. I must say I am very hopeful that in the short time that we have available to us we can make it a productive time. Obviously, appropriations bills will deserve, as they should, the highest priority. As we were able to do in the remaining days of the session prior to the recess, Democrats and Republicans came together on a number of bills, and I hope that would set a very important precedent and a standard by which we will judge our progress and our ability to work together in the remaining weeks of this session.

I will have much more to say about the President's actions in Iraq, as well as the convention, in the time allotted

to Democrats prior to 2 o'clock this afternoon.

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 2 p.m.

Mr. DASCHLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

IRAQ

Mr. DASCHLE. This morning, the President of the United States ordered the use of cruise missiles against key strategic targets in Iraq. President Clinton noted in his address that despite clear warnings from the United States and the international community, Iraqi forces attacked and seized the Kurdish-controlled city of Irbil. Iraq's latest attack repeats a pattern the civilized world has seen before. Saddam Hussein is prepared to use force at any time to achieve his end, to threaten his neighbors, to terrorize his own people, and to undermine the stability of the entire Middle East.

This act of naked aggression violates the spirit if not the letter of the United Nations' resolution adopted shortly after Saddam's earlier misguided attempts at transforming the balance of power in the Middle East. President Clinton correctly stated that if we did not respond firmly and decisively at this time, Saddam would conclude he could act with impunity.

The purpose of the U.S. military action is twofold: First, Saddam must pay a price for his attack on the Kurds; second, by extending the no-fly zone and eliminating certain air defense assets, we have reduced the threat he poses to others. To our allies and to others overseas, President Clinton and the United States will continue to do all that is necessary to protect our national and our international interests. And the President will continue to consult closely with our allies as he did before taking this action.

Finally, I am optimistic that all Americans will set aside partisan political differences and stand behind the administration at this important time. Senator Dole's latest comments indicate that he supports the United States strikes, and I am pleased to know that others in his party have had similar reactions. I expect strong, if not unanimous, bipartisan support for the President's decision to launch a United States strike against Iraq this morning.

As I indicated earlier today, it will be my intention to work with the majority leader to propose a resolution of support for the President's actions later today, to be voted upon tomorrow.

Mr. President, I hope Saddam Hussein and those who are in control of the Iraqi Government clearly understand the resolve and the determination of this administration and this country. This may be a political year, and we may now be in the most contentious time of the entire Presidential campaign, but on this issue there can be no disunity. There can be no lack of cohesion. We stand united, Republicans and Democrats, determined to send as clear a message with as clear a resolve as we can articulate: Saddam Hussein's actions will not be tolerated. His willingness to brutally attack Kurds in northern Iraq and abrogate U.N. resolutions is simply unacceptable.

We intend to make that point clear with the use of force, with the use of legislative language, and with the use of other actions that the President and the Congress have at their disposal. We stand united in support of the President's commitment to stand up against Iraq's aggression, and we should continue to demonstrate our support for the administration's response in the weeks and months ahead, regardless of the actions taken by Saddam Hussein.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COVERDELL. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President: It is my understanding that from the hour of 12:30 until 2 o'clock that time is allotted to either myself or a designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, in just a moment I am going to call on the distinguished senior Senator from Texas. I know I am another American here that is thinking every moment and every day about the condition of our men and women in the armed services that are engaged in the conflict with Iraq. That will not be the subject of our discourse this afternoon. But before we get into it I wanted to acknowledge my concern, and I am sure the concerns of all of my citizens in Georgia at home and across the Nation as we hope that each of their journeys is a safe one and that they all return ultimately to their assignments and ultimately at home here in the United States safely and in good keeping.

So our thoughts are with all our armed services personnel wherever