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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 1997, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1997

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Bishop Phillip H. Porter, of All Nation Pentecostal Center Church of God in Christ, Aurora, CO, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of all grace, mercy and providence, lest we fail of the privilege, responsibility, and favor You have bestowed upon us, we beseech You early. You who are before all things also know the call and cause of this day, its duties and deliberations. We therefore present ourselves before Your throne that You may so anoint us, that we servants of the power granted only by You may be filled with Your spirit, even to the overflowing for the good of Your people, our fellow citizens.

Out of Your wholeness our Father, I ask that same attention for the soul, body, and spirit of these men and women of this great Senate. Our wholeness emanates from You. For their spouses, children, grandchildren, and constituents, we extend these blessings.

And because of the extraordinary gathering of holy men who will be here present, this Saturday coming, by the divine hand of Your dear Son and according to Proverbs 11:11, "By the blessings of the upright the city is exalted," we cast the enemy from the mind and yield to Your holy spirit's presence and power. Be glorified in us, O God, our Father.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

GUEST CHAPLAIN BISHOP PHILLIP H. PORTER

Mr. ALLARD. First of all, Mr. President, I want to thank the guest Chaplain this morning for being with us here in the U.S. Senate and leading off the session in prayer.

It is a particular honor for me to be here since I am from the State of Colorado and he is also from the State of Colorado. It is a good thing he is here. It is a good thing that he is chairman of the board of Promise Keepers. It is a good thing he is becoming a leader in this country in talking about those things that are so very important, I think, to this country. It is a good thing he is talking about civility. It is a good thing he is talking about kindness. It is a good thing that he is talking about the integrity and how important integrity is to this country. It is a good thing that he is talking about the freedoms and what this country is all about. I particularly feel it is a good thing he is putting out so much effort to reconcile men through discipleship in the Lord.

I just wanted to take a few moments this morning to recognize him for his effort on behalf of all of us. I just want to wish the very best this week with Promise Keepers.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business. Therefore, no rollcall votes will occur during today's session.

As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes on Monday. It is expected that the Senate will resume consideration of Senate bill 25, the campaign finance reform bill on Monday. In addition, the Senate will resume consideration of the D.C. appropriations bill early next week. It is hoped we can complete work on that legislation and any appropriations conference reports as they become available.

Subsequently, Members' cooperation in the scheduling of floor action next week will be greatly appreciated. Senators are reminded that the next possibility of a rollcall vote will be on Tuesday morning.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. HAGEL. I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to speak for up to 30 minutes in morning business.

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

BISHOP PHILLIP H. PORTER

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I, too, want to add a welcome for the distinguished bishop from Colorado. My friend and colleague, Senator ALLARD, said it very well; we are much enriched because of the bishop's leadership and his presence this morning.

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



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I note, however, he did not offer a prayer for the Colorado Buffaloes in their anticipated contest with the Nebraska Corn Huskers. That prayer may come later.

GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. HAGEL. On just as important business, Mr. President, I will address this morning the issue of global warming.

Let me first say that the more attention the media and the American people pay to this issue, the better. For the global climate issue will have a major impact on the future of our country, our people, and, indeed, the entire world. How the nations of the world address the global climate issue will be one of the most important global economic and environmental decisions of the next century.

There are differing opinions on the conclusiveness of global warming and how we should address it. But this is not a debate nor has it ever been a debate about who is for or against the environment. I have yet to meet any American who wants dirty air, dirty water, dirty environment or declining standards of living for their children or grandchildren. We all agree on the need for a clean environment. We all want to leave our children a better, cleaner, more prosperous world. So the debate is not about those for or against a clean environment.

As my colleagues, the media and many people in America know, the nations of the world are currently negotiating a treaty to limit worldwide emissions of greenhouse gasses. This treaty will be presented for signatures this December in Kyoto, Japan. Many of my colleagues and I fear the current treaty negotiations will shackle the United States' economy—meaning fewer jobs, lower economic growth and a lower standard of living for our children and our future generations. This treaty would do so without any meaningful reduction in greenhouse gasses because—because—it leaves out the very nations who will be the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gasses, the more than 130 developing nations including China, India, Mexico, South Korea, and many others.

The U.S. Senate took a very strong and unequivocal stand against this treaty in July when it approved the Byrd-Hagel resolution 95-0. That resolution states that any treaty signed by this administration must come before the Senate for ratification, and the U.S. Senate has stated very clearly that it will not approve a treaty that excludes the developing nations or that would cause serious economic harm to the United States. This body is on record by a vote of 95-0, stating that very clearly.

There is simply no way for the terms of current negotiations of the Global Climate Treaty to satisfy the conditions of the Byrd-Hagel resolution. In fact, I was very disturbed, Mr. Presi-

dent, to learn this week when the administration's chief negotiator on this treaty, Under Secretary of State Tim Wirth, briefed the Senate's global climate change observer group that he said it was very unlikely that the developing nations will be included in any treaty to be signed in Kyoto, Japan, this December. The exemption of these nations would surely bring about the treaty's defeat here in the U.S. Senate.

However, this is not preventing the administration from pressing forward with this treaty. Although its final negotiating position has not yet been made public, instead of telling the Senate, the media, the American people, exactly what the administration will be pushing for at Kyoto in respect to exact emission levels and timetables, the White House has unleashed its typical spin campaign.

For example, Secretary of Interior Babbitt has been out all over America on college campuses lecturing our young people about the dire and horrific consequences of global warming, while failing to mention the contradicting science, the very clear contradicting science or the very real economic consequences that would have a very real impact on this country's standard of living—jobs, future.

In fact, I have to say, Mr. President, in almost unparalleled arrogance Mr. Babbitt has gone so far as to say the following about those who dare disagree with him or the administration on the issue of global warming, and who would have the audacity—can you imagine anyone challenging the administration on this issue—to argue against the treaty? I quote from the Secretary of Interior: “* * * what they're doing is un-American in the most basic sense.” From the Secretary of Interior.

The Energy Department released a study which they said shows that the United States can achieve these reductions of emissions called for in the Global Climate Treaty without acknowledging that what they really meant to say was we could get one-third of the way to the goals under the most rosy assumptions by completely shutting down a number of American industries such as the coal industry and by increasing energy costs either through taxes or regulation. They have failed to mention that.

The administration claims that the debate over the science is over. The administration said there is no debate, anymore, on the fact that the globe is warming up. While newspapers across America are writing front page-stories on alternative scientific explanations for the Earth's warming, still the administration persists.

I noted that the White House hosted a session this week for weather forecasters from across America to learn more about global warming and to broadcast their weather forecasts from the White House lawn. That is an interesting photo-op, good public relations.

This is what one weathercaster had to say: “I was somewhat skeptical that human beings were really doing anything to affect the weather. But hearing the President and the Vice President state emphatically that the scientific debate is over, well, that went a long way toward convincing me.”

The scientific debate is over? Oh, no. No, quite the contrary. The scientific debate is still very much ongoing. Perhaps the White House did not read the lengthy September 23 story in the New York Times describing how a number of respected scientists and climatologists from around the world believe that variations in the Earth's temperature are the result of changes in, imagine this, solar activity. The Sun might, in fact, have something to do with global climate changes. Judith Lean of the Naval Research Laboratory here in Washington was quoted as saying, “We figure that half the climate change from 1850 to now can be accounted for by the Sun.” Scientists at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center studied records of the past 120 years and determined that the Sun is responsible for up to 71 percent of the Earth's changes in temperature. Imagine that, when they added other factors into their research, that figure rose to 94 percent.

Perhaps the White House didn't see the “NBC Nightly News” in August on a research ship funded by 23 nations that is going thousands of feet below the surface of the ocean and studying the Earth's geological history. So far, these scientists have sampled 87 miles of rock and sediment from all over the world. And according to one of the main scientists on the ship, Prof. Nicholas Christie-Block of Columbia University, they have captured about 10 million years of the Earth's history in a single core sample of mud, sand, and rock. He said, “The information we have to judge the modern climate is incomplete. We don't have that long-term perspective.”

Studying these core samples gives the scientists information on when the Earth's oceans rose and fell. They can chart the Earth's ice ages and hot spells. Some of these scientists believe as you look at the history—specifically the history of the climate of the Earth—that we are actually at the warmest point between two ice ages. The weather forecast from that report? “Hot tomorrow, and 50,000 years from now, skiing in Texas and sledding in Florida.” I am sorry to say, Mr. President, that prohibits skiing in Colorado.

Perhaps the White House has never heard from Dr. Richard Lindzen, professor of meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who testified before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee that, “a decade of focus on global warming and billions of dollars of research funds have still failed to establish that global warming is a significant problem.”

Perhaps the White House is unaware of the research by Dr. Patrick Michaels, a distinguished climatologist