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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:

Almighty God, we begin this session of the Senate with affirmations of great truths:

You are the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer of all.

You are the Sovereign of this Nation.

We are accountable to You for our leadership.

You have called us to serve You.

We are here by Your divine appointment.

The margin of human error is ever-present.

We can limit Your best for our Nation.

Without Your help we can hit wide of the mark.

With Your guidance, we cannot fail.

There are solutions to our most complex problems.

There is no limit to what You will do if we trust You.

So this is a day for hope, optimism, and courage. Set us free of any negative thinking or attitudes. If You could give birth to this Nation, bless us in adversities through the years, and give us victory in just wars, surely You are able to help us now if we will trust You. Fill this Chamber with Your presence and each Senator with Your power. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

ORDERS FOR TODAY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader I ask unanimous consent

that the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate be in a period of morning business until the hour of 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes with the following exceptions: Senator GREGG, 10 minutes; Senator GRAMS, 10 minutes; Senator THOMAS, 30 minutes; Senator LOTT or his designee, 10 minutes; Senator DASCHLE or his designee, 60 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, for the information of all Members and on behalf of the leader, today, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., the Senate will be in a period of morning business. It is the leader's hope that the Senate will be able to consider S. 419, the Birth Defects Prevention Act. Again, this bill is noncontroversial and the Senate should be able to complete action on this important matter in no more than 30 minutes.

In addition, it is the leader's hope that we will be able to consider some of the available executive nominations on today's Executive Calendar. The leader also hopes the Senate will be allowed to consider these items as we are fast approaching the July recess.

In addition, the leader wishes to put all Senators on notice that there is much work to do between now and the start of the adjournment, and that Senators should be prepared to be present and working during the next couple of weeks. And the leader further thanks his colleagues for their attention.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to morning business.

Mr. GREGG. Unless the Democratic leader wishes to go forward, I will proceed with my morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

NASHUA, NH, THE BEST PLACE IN AMERICA TO LIVE

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, today the State of New Hampshire and a number of communities in the State of New Hampshire were afforded a singular and appropriate honor. The city of Nashua, my hometown, where I was born, raised, and went to school, was rated the best place in America in which to live. The city of Manchester and the city of Portsmouth were rated the sixth and fifth best places in the country in which to live. That means the State of New Hampshire, which is a small State—and to paraphrase Daniel Webster, a small State but there are those of us who love it—received the designation of having three of its major communities within the State identified as the best places to live of the top 10 in the country. In fact, only one other State, Florida, was able to put three communities in the top 10. And, of course, Florida is about 6 or 7 times the size of New Hampshire in population.

In addition, no other State was able to put two of its communities in the top five, and New Hampshire has the first community and the fifth community in Nashua and Portsmouth. Those of us who live in New Hampshire and have enjoyed the fruits of being part of that wonderful community, understand that this is not an award which is received as a result of luck, but it is an award which is received as a result of a lot of hard work and, more important, a lot of community spirit. We are a State where people still care about their neighbors. We are a State where we care about how we deal with each other. And, as a result, we have built

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



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communities where crime is low, where education is extremely strong, where our health care is rated the best in the country, where our mental health care is rated the best in the country, where we are rated best in the country for caring for troubled children, and where we still maintain a State which has no sales or income tax and delivers effective and efficient and first-class community services to our citizens.

And our citizens get involved. It is a State of voluntarism, a State where people understand if they are going to make their community work well they have to take the time to be involved in the local community activities whether it is the local Babe Ruth League or baseball team, or whether it happens to be the arts community or whether it is just the process of cleaning up the main street on cleanup day.

So I rise to congratulate my fellow citizens of New Hampshire, to especially congratulate the cities of Manchester, Portsmouth, and Nashua, and with a unique emphasis on Nashua in that it was rated No. 1 and that it is my hometown, where I was born and raised and went to school, and I am very proud that they have done so well. I congratulate all of those who make New Hampshire such a fine place to live.

PAYING OUR UNITED NATIONS ARREARS

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I wanted to talk a little bit about the agreement which we are about to reach, it appears, relative to the United Nations and how we are going to pay our arrears. I chair the Committee on Commerce, State, and Justice, which has jurisdiction over the appropriations that go to the United Nations. At the behest of the majority leader, Senator LOTT, and at the request of the Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, myself and Senator HELMS and Senator GRAMS and our staffs have been meeting assiduously with Ambassador Richardson's staff, and the staff of Secretary Albright. We have made considerable progress. In fact, we believe we have reached an agreement as to how to handle these arrears.

The basic theme of this agreement is that we are going to ask the United Nations to be a better place. We are not going to ask them to do things which are unreasonable. We are not going to ask them to do things which are political. We are just going to ask them to do a better job of handling our money. And to assure that, we are going to set certain benchmarks.

So, we are going to commit to the United Nations; we are basically going to give them what amounts to, in my opinion, an irrevocable letter of credit that we will pay the arrears as we see them. The number that we agreed on I believe is significant, and I believe it will be agreeable to the people at the United Nations But, in exchange for

paying those arrears—and we are going to do it over a period of time—we are going to ask that the United Nations run a better shop, that it be more efficient, that it use those dollars more efficiently and that it make sure that it handles those dollars the way American taxpayers expect us to handle the dollars that they pay us. Because for every dollar spent at the United Nations today, 25 cents comes from the American taxpayer.

It is very hard today to go back to the people in New Hampshire, my good people who have just been rated so highly as the great place to live by Money magazine—it is very hard to go back to them and say, "Well, we are going to give the United Nations this amount of money for our dues but we are not sure where the money is spent, how it is spent, who it is spent on, or whether, when it is spent, it goes to where they say it is going to go."

To try to correct that, we are asking that the United Nations meet certain very definable, enforceable benchmarks. The Senator from Minnesota, who I notice is on the floor, Senator GRAMS, has been a major player in defining those benchmarks, and of course the Senator from North Carolina, Senator HELMS, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has been a force of immense proportions on defining those benchmarks.

But agreement appears to have been reached, at least between ourselves and the administration. It is an agreement which is fair and which gives the United Nations the dollars which they feel they deserve. But, in exchange for those dollars, it does require that the United Nations be responsible with the management of those dollars and the management of additional dollars that we will be giving them in the foreseeable future. This agreement, I believe, will be included in the foreign relations bill, the authorization bill for foreign affairs, foreign relations, which is going to be coming through—the State Department authorization. It will be marked up later this week.

I just want to express my appreciation for all the people who worked so hard on this. We worked on it for about, I guess, now, almost 4 months. Fairly aggressive negotiations have occurred. I think it is good we have reached an agreement and it is positive for the process and it will immensely improve the operation of the United Nations, should the United Nations decide to go along with proposals that we have made. I presume they will because they are reasonable proposals.

Madam President, I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, let me claim as much time as I may consume of the leader's time and ask unanimous consent I may be followed by the Senator from Minnesota, Senator WELLSTONE.

Mr. WELLSTONE. If this would help in the deliberations, we have talked to

Senator GRAMS and I plan on restricting my remarks to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is the Senator from North Dakota seeking the time that has been designated in the agreement to the minority leader?

Mr. DORGAN. Yes, that is what I requested, Madam President.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I will not consume but a fraction of the 1 hour, and the Senator from Minnesota, Senator WELLSTONE, will consume a very short amount of time. I believe Senator GRAMS will then be recognized. We had a visit about that and I appreciate the courtesy of both of my colleagues.

A VIGIL ON THE DISASTER RELIEF BILL

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, last evening a number of us were here, a good many Senators, as a matter of fact, were here almost all night holding a vigil on the issue of the disaster relief bill that seems ensnared in, regrettably, politics as usual. We have done the only thing we can do, and that is to apply as much consistent pressure as is possible to the Congress to say, "Do the right thing." And the right thing is to pass disaster relief for victims who have suffered natural disasters, especially the flood victims in the region of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, and get them that aid as soon as is possible.

I am not here to point fingers or to say that there is this side or that side. For me there is only one side and that is being on the side of victims of a natural disaster. I know there are a lot of things floating around here, back and forth, with extraneous amendments and so on. I am not interested in politics. I am only interested in progress, speaking on behalf of some people who were dealt a very serious blow, one they did not deserve but one that they now have to try to recover from, and one they will recover from when we reach out our hand of help to say, "You are not alone. The rest of the country wants to offer you some help."

During this vigil we held last night—my time was from midnight to 3 in the morning—I found myself at 2 in the morning talking on a nationwide radio talk show with "The Trucking Bozo," I guess his show is called. I guess I didn't think, when I came to the Senate, that I would be, at 2 a.m., talking to the "Trucking Bozo" on a national radio program. But to the extent I had an opportunity to talk to truckers across this country who were hauling America's goods back and forth, I am glad I did. I hope they got the message as well, that most of us want what is right for this country, and what is right at this moment is for Congress to stop all the extraneous things that are going on and pass disaster relief.

In the middle of all of these discussions, however, with the "Trucking