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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 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 Father, help us to live beyond the meager resources of our adequacies and learn that You are totally reliable when we trust You completely. You constantly lead us into challenges and opportunities that are beyond our erudition and experience. We know that in every circumstance You provide us with exactly what we need.

Looking back over our lives, we know that we could not have made it without Your intervention and inspiration. And when we settle back on a comfortable plateau of satisfaction, suddenly You press us on to new levels in the adventure of leadership. You are a disturber of false peace, the developer of dynamic character, and the ever-present Deliverer when we attempt what we could not do on our own. Thank You for the tangible evidence of Your answer to our prayers for an agreement on the budget.

May this be a day in which we attempt something beyond our human adequacy and discover that You are able to provide the power to pull it off. Give us a fresh burst of excitement for the duties of this day so that we will be able to serve courageously. Indeed, we will attempt great things for You and expect great things from You. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Kansas, is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morn-

ing business until 11:30 a.m. Following the morning business period, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1022, the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill. Under the order, Senator WELLSTONE will be recognized for 1 hour, equally divided, to debate his two amendments to the bill.

In addition, from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m., the Senate will recess for the weekly policy luncheons to meet. And by consent, at 2:15 p.m., the Senate will then proceed to a series of votes on the remaining amendments in order to S. 1022, the State, Justice, Commerce appropriations bill, including final passage.

Also, by previous consent, following the votes at 2:15 p.m., the Senate will resume the Transportation appropriations bill. As previously announced, all amendments to the Transportation appropriations bill must be offered and debated during today's session. Therefore, additional votes can be anticipated throughout today's session of the Senate.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

It appears to me that perhaps we do not have a quorum. As a matter of fact, I suggest to you, Mr. President, the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1022

Mr. ROBERTS. I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that the votes scheduled to begin at 2:15 p.m. today now begin at 3:30 p.m.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 2015

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate begin consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2015 at 12 noon, Wednesday, regardless of the receipt of the papers from the House.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

### 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 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 10 minutes, Mr. President.

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

### LAKE TAHOE PRESIDENTIAL FORUM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, approximately 1 year ago I asked President Clinton to convene a summit on the environmental problems facing Lake Tahoe. He did convene a summit in Lake Tahoe this past Friday and Saturday. Vice President GORE and President Clinton both came to Lake Tahoe.

Mr. President, Mark Twain said that Lake Tahoe is "the fairest picture the

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



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whole Earth affords." I think Mark Twain was right. That beautiful lake, that is shared by the States of Nevada and California, is the fairest place in all the Earth.

That beautiful piece of real estate is also shared with the Federal Government because the Federal Government owns about 75 percent of the land mass within the Tahoe basin.

The reason, Mr. President, that the President was asked to come to Lake Tahoe is because that beautiful resource is in distress. Approximately 50 percent of the trees in the basin are dead or dying. Erosion is taking away the beautiful clarity of that lake. The clarity of that lake is leaving at the rate of over a foot a year because of erosion and pollutants going into that lake. Additionally, we have tremendous fear, through the whole basin, of forest fires.

Lake Tahoe is clearly the crown jewel of our national treasures and it must be preserved.

Mr. President, we should all be proud of what took place there these past several months. The planning and execution of the summit involved over 1,000 local people. We had four Cabinet officers who came to the area on more than one occasion. The workshops and the forums that were held prepared the Vice President and the President for their visits. It was not the result of the President coming and saying, "Here's what we are going to do."

In fact, what the President decided to do was based upon what the thousand people said should be done. It was not possible to determine who was speaking, whether it was an environmentalist, an owner of a business in the area, or a local government official. They were all speaking as if they were singing from the same sheet of music.

In fact, the President said that one of the most remarkable things is that this summit, this Presidential forum set the pattern of how disputes should be resolved all around the world, not only in our own country, because he felt that people joined together for a common cause and decided that the environment could be taken care of and the economy could still grow. The people said that unanimously. At Lake Tahoe, there is no false choice between the economy and the environment. Each depends upon the other.

The people of the Tahoe Basin and the States of California and Nevada agree that something must be done. They asked for a partnership with the Federal Government, and they got that partnership.

Holding such a forum at this time is critical: If we continue our current path for another 10 years, the damage already done would become irreversible. If we continue on our current path for 30 years, Lake Tahoe will be no better than any other lake. It will be just an average lake. This would be devastating to the people of this country.

Lake Tahoe is not just another lake and we must not let it become one.

We have tens of millions of visitors each year that visit the lake. We can no longer let the lake be treated the way it has been in the past. History will not be kind to us if we let this jewel slip away. We have been given a gift, and we must provide adequate stewardship over this gift.

I have indicated that 75 percent of the land in the basin is federally owned. There is a Federal responsibility to do our share.

Mr. President, when the President came, he not only acknowledged that there was a problem with the lake, but this was more than a photo opportunity. The President came and signed an Executive order indicating that all Federal agencies would have to work together to save the lake.

The first chairman of the Federal task force is Secretary Glickman. The first work being done as a result of the President's visit started yesterday. Some of the things being done I think are significant. I am not going to mention the 28 different action items that the President initiated that have dollar signs attached to them, but it is about \$50 million worth over two years, a doubling of the current effort.

One of the things that so impressed me is that the President said that this year 29 miles of old logging roads will be obliterated. Some of the roads have been in existence for more than 100 years going back to the days of the Comstock when they took away all the forests in the area to satisfy the voracious appetite of the mines in the Virginia City area. After 10 years, all the old roads will be gone. These roads have added significantly to the erosion that has taken place in that lake over these many years.

In addition to that, Mr. President, there will be work done on watershed assessments so that people will understand what we are dealing with there. Two million dollars will be used to clear dead brush and deadwood from the more than 3,500 federally owned lots. These lots have been purchased as a result of Federal lands being sold 500 miles away in the Las Vegas area. These lots now need to be cleaned up. As a result of the action of the President, they will be cleaned up.

The Forest Service also, Mr. President, will begin a program immediately of prescribed burns. We spend about \$1 billion a year fighting fires in this Nation. We are now going to spend part of these moneys starting controlled fires. It is the only way that that forest around Lake Tahoe can be regenerated and made safe. In the past we have burned about 100 to 200 acres a year. This will be an increase of up to 1,000 acres a year which will be burned carefully and on purpose.

The Forest Service will also use prescribed fires, and other means, to reduce fuels on another 4,000 acres per year. This will be 4,000 acres a year that will become a much better, safer place.

Mr. President, the work that was done these past 3 months is something

that I think we should all be proud of. It shows that the Federal Government can work with State and local governments in a nonadversarial way. I think what took place here is an indication of what can take place in the future in other areas around the country.

It is possible, I repeat, that you can grow the economy and protect and preserve the environment, as indicated with the work that has taken place in the Lake Tahoe area during the last 3 months. Lake Tahoe and the area around there is only 26 percent registered Democrats. But it was impossible to determine, these past 3 months, who was a Democrat and who was a Republican. Everyone joined together to recognize that this great lake is in trouble and that we all need to work together—a Democratic President and a Republican Congress.

I hope, Mr. President, that the American people realize that we can work together, as indicated by the budget agreement that has been worked out around here these past few weeks, and that we can work together on difficult problems, not only environmental problems, but economic problems.

So, I'm very happy that the President accepted my invitation to come to Lake Tahoe. I think that his coming there was a home run for the economy and the environment and government in general.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Thank you, Mr. President.

#### THE BUDGET AGREEMENT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today, we learned that last evening the White House and congressional leaders reached agreement on a budget and tax cut proposal. I think that will be good news for the American people.

I have been in Congress for some long while, as has been the Presiding Officer, and we have seen budgets and more budgets. We have seen claims and counterclaims. We have seen good times and bad times. We have seen economies that are expanding and economies that are contracting.

I remember the action taken in 1993 by this Congress, at a point in time in 1993 when the budget deficit was swelling in an almost uncontrolled manner and the budget deficit was, in the unified budget, over \$290 billion—if you count all the money the way you ought to, it was well over \$300 billion—and then in 1993, with that deficit out of control, this Congress took action. By one vote here in the Senate and one vote in the other body, this Congress passed what should be called the Balanced Budget Act. We then called it a deficit reduction bill. And it has worked.

From 1993 until now, we have seen the budget deficit go down, down, down and way down. That has allowed, I think, the American people to be more