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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 29, 1999, at 10 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

We praise You, Gracious Father. Your love is constant and never changes. You have promised never to leave nor forsake us. Our confidence is in You and not ourselves. We waiver, fail, and need Your help. We come to You not trusting in our own goodness but solely in Your grace. You are our joy when we get down, our strength when we are weak, our courage when we vacillate. You are our security in a world of change and turmoil.

Thank You for reminding us that we are not left on our own. When we forget You in the rush of life, You give us a wake-up call. And when we feel distant from You, it is we who move, not You. O Lord, You will never let us go. We claim Your ever-replenishing strength.

And now, filled with wonder, love, and gratitude, we commit this day to live for You and by the power of Your indwelling spirit. Control our minds and give us wisdom; give us sensitivity to people and their needs; help us to be servant-leaders; give us boldness to take a stand for Your mandates of righteousness and justice. Thank You for the privilege of living this day to the fullest. In Your all-powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BOB SMITH, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). The able majority leader is recognized.

O HAPPY DAY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning as I came into the Senate Chamber, the words to a song came to mind, "O Happy Day." I almost feel like singing. This is a happy day. This is when the American people finally get to have a little bit more control over their lives, their own lives, based on decisions made in Chester County, PA, or in Pascagoula, MS. This is a day when we are going to be talking about the people being able to keep just a little bit more of their own hard-earned money. Too often in the Senate we are arguing over details; we are trying to figure out how we from Washington can spend more of the people's money; we are thinking about how can we in Washington control more of people's lives.

Well, finally we are going to get to have some fun; the people are going to get to have some fun. They can keep their own money to look after their own children without the Government

telling them how to do it, to put them in the school of their choice, to deal with their health needs, or maybe even to have a little fun. O Happy Day. They get to be with their family on their own money.

So I got up this morning feeling good because finally we are going to be doing something that I feel good about, the kind of thing that I came to Washington to do, and that was to try to control and reduce the size of Washington Government, to go with what Thomas Jefferson had in mind, and that was to put those decisions back closest to the people, with the people and the Government closest to the people. This is when we begin to do it. I think back during Jefferson's term after a war, a conflict that the country had been involved in. They terminated the death tax. Yes. Go back and look at history. The only time death taxes were put in place was during wars. When the wars were over, they were ended. But then mistakenly, because he was not in good health, President Wilson, after World War I, did not take it off and we have been stuck with it ever since.

So this is a happy day, and I look forward to having a discussion about the specifics of tax relief for working Americans.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Before we get started with that, under a previous order, the Senate will begin a cloture vote on the substitute amendment to the juvenile justice bill at 9:45. Following the vote, Senator SMITH is expected to make

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



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some remarks regarding his concerns with the juvenile justice legislation. If cloture is invoked and following the remarks of Senator SMITH, it is hoped the Senate will proceed to the various motions to send the juvenile justice bill to conference.

I understand completely Senator SMITH's concerns. He has been determined, but he has been reasonable and cooperative within the limits of what he felt he had to do to the maximum degree. I thank him for his approach. I certainly share a lot of his concerns. But I believe, all things considered, this is the right thing to do for the Senate and for the country.

The Senate will then begin consideration of the tax relief bill under the reconciliation procedures. As a reminder, by statute, the reconciliation bill is limited to 20 hours of debate. I really would like to have more time for discussion on this bill so that we could cut out some of the discussion on all these other bills that come up. Therefore, it is hoped that Senators will have their amendments ready and will offer their amendments during the 20 hours. Debate time on amendments is included, but the actual vote time is not included in the 20 hours.

So we can expect to go well into the evening today and again on Thursday in order to finish. If we do not, we will go over until Friday. But we have enough time and we certainly should finish this bill no later than sometime during the day Friday.

We do expect opening statements this morning. It may be that there will be several hours needed for the opening statements, but I hope we can quickly turn to the amendment process and give Senators an opportunity to offer amendments about which they feel strongly.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 1999

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Lott amendment No. 1344, in the nature of a substitute.

Lott amendment No. 1345 (to amendment No. 1344), to provide that the bill will become effective one day after enactment.

Lott amendment No. 1346 (to amendment No. 1345), to provide that the bill will become effective two days after enactment.

Lott amendment No. 1347 (to the language proposed to be stricken), to provide that the bill will become effective three days after enactment.

Lott amendment No. 1348 (to amendment No. 1347), to provide that the bill will become effective four days after enactment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I see the minority leader

coming on the floor. I was just going to try to get about 3 minutes before the vote. Would that be agreeable with the minority leader?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, it would be entirely agreeable. I would just ask that prior to the time we have a vote, I be able to use some of my leader time for a couple of comments. But I would be happy to yield the floor so that the Senator from New Hampshire can speak.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. I very much appreciate the minority leader's consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I want to make a point on the legislation before the cloture vote we are going to have shortly because, according to the rules, I am not going to be able to debate this until after the vote, which is really not the best process in the world. But I want my colleagues to know what we will be voting cloture on in a very few moments is the Senate substitute for the underlying House bill. So when we go to cloture on that, what we are doing is substituting gun control for the House bill.

I want all of my colleagues to understand that H.R. 1501 is a return to traditional values.

This bill brings morals back into the school. It brings values back into the school. It focuses on the cultural problems that are facing us. It allows a display of the Ten Commandments. It allows individual religious expression. It allows prayer at school memorial services. It allows faith-based groups to compete for Government juvenile justice grants. That is the underlying provision. That is what I wanted to vote on, and that is what I did not have the opportunity to vote on.

What is being substituted is gun control. It imposes strict limits on gun shows. It requires the sale of trigger locks with guns, and it puts new limits on juvenile gun possession, even juveniles who are law-abiding citizens who might like to have hunting licenses.

The bottom line is, the bill passed by the Senate is a good cultural bill. Gun control is being substituted. If my colleagues vote for cloture, they are voting to substitute gun control for a very good bill that focuses on the cultural and moral problems in our schools.

I will close on this point. There is a fictitious story being circulated on the Internet where a Columbine High School student writes a letter to God and says:

Dear God: I'm very angry with you. I don't understand why you allowed 13 of my fellow students to be killed by two of my fellow students. Please answer me as soon as possible. Columbine High School student.

A letter comes back from God:

Dear student: Let me remind you, I'm not allowed in your high school.

We need to think seriously because this is a major decision we are making. If my colleagues vote for cloture, they

are substituting gun control for values, prayer in school, the Ten Commandments, religious expression, and prayers at memorial services. That is what they are substituting, one for the other.

Let's make it clear: If you are for gun control, vote for cloture. If you are for values and prayer and the Ten Commandments in school, vote against cloture.

I yield back the remainder of my time. I thank the minority leader for his courtesy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will use a few minutes of my leader time to comment.

We intend to support the effort to move this legislation to conference. In fact, I endorse the actions taken by the majority leader in this case in so-called filling the tree.

For the purpose of record and drawing a distinction on this bill from other bills where our majority leader has filled the tree prior to the time we have had any debate, this bill, S. 254, has been debated now for 8 days, from May 11 through May 20. We conducted 32 rollcall votes. The Senate considered 38 amendments—18 Democratic amendments, 20 Republican amendments. We had 10 Democratic amendments agreed to, 17 Republican amendments agreed to, and then we had 10 Democratic and Republican amendments that were not agreed to, and 1 Republican amendment was withdrawn.

The point I am making is that we have had a very good debate on S. 254. We had that debate. We brought it to conclusion. We had a final vote. Now it is time to move it on to conference. I fully respect the Senator from New Hampshire and his determination to slow this process down because he objects to some of the aspects in this bill, and that is his right. But I will say I support the effort made by the majority leader to move this bill to conference and the method he has employed to do so.

Again, this is not the same as laying a bill down for the first time, filling the tree and precluding Democratic amendments. We have had a very good debate on this bill. We have had an opportunity to offer amendments. I cite S. 254 as the model I wish we would follow on all bills, a model that we historically and traditionally have always followed, which is to lay a bill down, allow it to be subject to amendments, have a good debate on amendments, have the votes, have the final vote, and then go to conference.

I hope we can do more such of this in the future as we consider other authorizing bills. I urge my Democratic colleagues and my Republican colleagues to support the effort this morning to move this legislation forward to conference so we can resolve what differences there are with the House—and there are many very important differences. I am hopeful we can bring