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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Philip A. Smith, president of Providence College, Providence, RI, offered the following prayer:

Let us pause for a few moments and place ourselves in the presence of God.

As we gather in Your presence this morning, O gracious God, we thank You for the gifts You have bestowed on us. The grandeur of the universe, the wonder of love, the beauty of friendship, and the time to enjoy it all. We thank You for the privilege of living in a land of plenty and promise, equality and opportunity, a land where freedom reigns and peace is possible.

We ask Your blessings on the Members of this Senate as they grapple with complex economic, social, political, and cultural challenges in this Nation and around the world. Grant them the insight, wisdom, and courage to fashion legislation that will create a fresh vision and inspire hope, that will balance opportunity costs with social justice, that will enhance the quality of life for all Americans, while paying special attention to those in our midst who experience their existence as fragile or painful: the ill and the elderly, the unloved and the unwanted, the hungry and the homeless, the disadvantaged and the downtrodden.

Finally, we ask to enrich our faith and strengthen our hope, nurture our wisdom and deepen our love, increase our compassion, and broaden our tolerance so that our lives may illuminate the lives of others and light up the places where we labor and live.

We ask You this as a people of faith confident of Your love and goodness and as a people of hope who trust in Your promises. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 2549, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2549) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for other purposes.

Pending: Smith (of NH) amendment No. 3210, to prohibit granting security clearances to felons.

McCain amendment No. 3214 (to amendment No. 3210), to require the disclosure of expenditures and contributions by certain political organizations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, again I wish to express my cooperation to the leadership of the Senate, most specifically my distinguished ranking member, Mr. LEVIN. We are making progress on this bill.

I inquire first of the Chair with regard to time allocations. I believe, under the previous order, 1 hour has been reserved for the distinguished junior Senator from Massachusetts, to be assigned at some point today; is that not correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. WARNER. I inquire further about the distinguished Senator from New

Hampshire, Mr. ROBERT SMITH. I believe he has 30 minutes, and again that is an undesignated time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. WARNER. I think there are other designations of time we should recite.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator INHOFE from Oklahoma has 10 minutes; Senator SNOWE from Maine has 30 minutes.

Mr. WARNER. If those Senators will counsel with the managers, we are going to do everything we can to arrange for their recognition at a time mutually convenient.

I see the distinguished junior Senator from Massachusetts on the floor. It may well be that we could proceed with that, but I shall defer to my colleague momentarily.

SCHEDULE

For the benefit of the Senate, we will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. At 1 o'clock, the Senate will begin 2 hours of debate on the McCain amendment regarding soft money disclosure. That 2 hours will be equally divided between the sponsors of that amendment and the Senator from Virginia.

Following that debate, Senator KENNEDY will be recognized to offer an amendment regarding health care management organizations. Under a previous order, there will be up to 2 hours of debate on the Kennedy amendment, again, with the time equally divided between Kennedy proponents and the Senator from Virginia and/or his designee.

Votes will occur at approximately 5 o'clock. Senators should be aware, other amendments may be offered during the morning session. Therefore, votes may occur prior to the 1 o'clock orders.

I thank my colleagues. I know the distinguished minority whip seeks recognition on a matter.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the only correction I make is that the amendment will be offered by Senator

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



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DASCHLE or his designee, rather than Senator KENNEDY.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the distinguished Senator. Yesterday I believe the Senator brought that to my attention and we failed to record it. My statement is so amended by the distinguished Senator from Nevada.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CONRAD, I ask unanimous consent, under rule VI, paragraph 2, he be permitted to be absent from the service of the Senate today, Thursday, June 8.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I propose to my ranking member that as soon as we conclude our opening remarks, the Senate then recognize the junior Senator from Massachusetts for a period of 1 hour; is that correct?

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, my two colleagues, the Senator from Connecticut and the Senator from Rhode Island would like to take a moment to acknowledge our distinguished visiting Chaplain this morning. If they could just have a moment to do that.

Mr. WARNER. I am delighted to accommodate them in that fashion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

GREETINGS TO REV. PHILIP A. SMITH

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am delighted to welcome Father Philip Smith, the president of Providence College, our guest Chaplain.

Providence College is an extraordinary institution in my home State of Rhode Island. It is a place where many of my neighbors and friends have been educated. More than that, it has been a source of strength, purpose, and inspiration for the whole community. Father Smith is the 11th president of Providence College and has been a paramount leader both for his institution and for the State of Rhode Island.

Providence College is a Dominican college, a college committed to not only developing the minds but the character of its students. Its leader is a theologian, a scholar, and a leader in his own right. His leadership is not simply intellectual; he is a leader of integrity and of commitment.

Rhode Island is proud of Providence College, and particularly proud of the president of Providence College, Rev. Philip Smith. It was an honor to have him in the Chamber today to lead us in prayer. I thank him and I commend him. I wish him well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, at this juncture I ought to ask to associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island. He has spoken eloquently about Father Philip Smith and his wonderful leadership at Providence College.

I am honored to be a graduate of Providence, as was my father. I have fond memories of my years there, as my father did in his undergraduate days.

Father Smith led this institution most admirably during his tenure. We are delighted and honored he is performing the duties of assistant chaplain here today. I commend him for his opening prayer.

The Dominican priests are known as the order of preachers, Mr. President. Certainly Father Smith eloquently displayed that historic reputation of the Dominican order. The lives of the students who have attended Providence College have been so admirably altered as a result of the education of this wonderful institution. I know they join me in expressing our gratitude, not only to Father Smith but the faculty and administrator and others over the years who provided literally thousands of students and families with a wonderful educational opportunity in liberal arts, medicine and health, a very diverse academic curricula that is offered at Providence College. But also as my colleague from Rhode Island has adequately and appropriately identified, it is the spiritual leadership as well which we appreciate immensely.

It is truly an honor to welcome Father Smith to this Chamber, to thank him for his words, and to wish him and the entire family of Providence College the very best in the years to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001—Continued

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, I would like to pose a unanimous consent request with regard to the sequencing of speakers.

We have the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts who has, under a previous order, 1 hour. I suggest he be the first and lead off this morning, followed by the distinguished Senator from Maine, the chair of the Senate Seapower Subcommittee, and that would be for a period of 30 minutes thereafter. Following that, the distinguished ranking member and I have some 30 cleared amendments which we will offer to the Senate following these two sets of remarks.

Then Senator SMITH; as soon as I can reach him, I will sequence him in.

I just inform the Senate I will be seeking recognition to offer an amendment on behalf of Senator DODD and myself, and I will acquaint the ranking member with the text of that amendment shortly.

Just for the moment, the unanimous consent request is the Senator from Massachusetts, followed by the Senator from Maine followed by a period of time, probably not to exceed 30 minutes, for the ranking member and myself to deal with some 30-odd amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would add the following: It is my understanding of the unanimous consent agreement that recognition of the speakers who are listed here with a fixed period of time, including Senator KERRY, Senator SMITH, Senator SNOWE, and Senator INHOFE, is solely for the purpose of debate and not for the purpose of offering an amendment. Is the Senator correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the Chair.

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

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their courtesy and I appreciate the time of the Senate to be able to discuss an issue of extraordinary importance. It is an issue that is contained in this bill. It is a line item in this bill of some \$85 million with respect to the issue of national missile defense.

President Clinton has just returned from his first meeting with the new Russian President, Vladimir Putin, and arms control dominated their agenda, in particular, the plan of the United States to deploy a limited national defense system, which would require amending the 1972 ABM Treaty. Russia is still strongly opposed to changing that treaty, and I think we can all expect this will continue to be an issue of great discussion between the United States and Russia in the months and possibly years to come.

As I said, in the Senate today, this defense bill authorizes funding for the construction of the national missile defense initial deployment facilities. Regrettably, we do not always have the time in the Senate to lay out policy considerations in a thorough, quiet, and thoughtful way, and I will try to do that this morning. The question of whether, when, and how the United States should deploy a defense against ballistic missiles is, in fact, complex—tremendously complex. I want to take some time today to walk through the issues that are involved in that debate and to lay bare the implications it will have for the national security of the United States.

No American leader can dismiss an idea that might protect American citizens from a legitimate threat. If there is a real potential of a rogue nation, as we call them, firing a few missiles at any city in the United States, responsible leadership requires that we make our best, most thoughtful efforts to defend against that threat. The same is true of the potential threat of accidental launch. If ever either of these things happened, no leader could explain away not having chosen to defend against such a disaster when doing so made sense.