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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 Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, we need You. Our hearts are filled with grief over the death of Senator PAUL COVERDELL. The Senate has lost a great friend, fellow leader, distinguished American, and outstanding legislator. We praise You for his intelligence, his integrity, and his intentionality. No one worked harder, longer, with greater commitment than this truly good man. He spelled love l-o-y-a-l-t-y and gained the respect, admiration, and esteem of Senators and staff alike. Lord, we'll miss the Senator's smile, his warmth, his caring concern. You have enriched our lives through this kind and gracious Georgian. Bless his wife Nancy. Comfort her and give her courage this morning. Tenderly watch over his dear mother and family. Uplift the Senator's staff whose faithfulness and admiration he was given with such enthusiasm.

Now Father, we reaffirm our conviction that death is not an ending, but a transition in eternal life, and only a small part of the whole of eternity. So help us to live our lives more fully, more selflessly for the cause of democracy, and more completely in trust in You. In You we live and move and have our being—forever. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, 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 ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Colorado is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume debate on the Agriculture appropriations bill, with amendments in order. Senators who have amendments are encouraged to work with the bill managers on a time to come to the floor to offer and debate their amendments.

Also, during today's session, Senators are welcome to come to the floor to share their thoughts and memories of our former friend and colleague, Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

For the information of all Senators, funeral services are being arranged, and Senators will be notified with the specifics as soon as they become available.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2886

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2886) to provide for retail competition for the sale of electric power, to authorize States to recover transition costs, and for other purposes.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from Nevada.

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I learned shortly before Senator LOTT came to the floor last night that Senator COVERDELL had passed away. I felt it was in my best interest to leave at that time and not be present on the floor, as I usually am.

It was unique, in that I am in the minority—Senator COVERDELL was in the majority—that I got to know him as well as I did. I always knew that things were moving along and that we were going to get legislation completed when I would look over and Senator COVERDELL had been called into the Chamber by Senator LOTT to help move legislation.

As I look back, I remember the bankruptcy legislation. We started out with a little over 300 amendments on that legislation. Everyone thought it was futile to even try to pass it, but, of course, Senator COVERDELL came in and worked with me and the Senators on his side and my side, and we were able to get that legislation cleared and basically completed. That was the story for many, many different pieces of legislation.

I got to know him. He was very calm and deliberate and extremely courteous and polite—a real gentleman. I think it speaks volumes to recognize that Senator LOTT's No. 1 person he called on when there was trouble on the floor was PAUL COVERDELL. I think it speaks volumes to indicate that Governor Bush's No. 1 person in the Senate was PAUL COVERDELL.

He was someone that the people of Georgia will miss, this country will miss, the Senate will miss. I personally will miss him.

I have the honor of working on the minority side to help move legislation along. I personally will miss him. He was very, very good at being a legislator, in addition, obviously, to being such a good friend to everyone.

● 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 express my sympathy to Nancy and his staff. Speaking for the entire minority, we will miss a great legislator.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4461, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, when my constituents ask me, what is the nicest thing about being a Senator, what do you enjoy the most, I have a ready answer: It is the people, the people we get to meet, the opportunities we have to interact with some of the most extraordinary individuals throughout the world.

When I say that, my constituents immediately think of the great names: Presidents of the United States, Presidents of other countries, famous Prime Ministers. Schoolchildren look at me and say: Have you ever met President Clinton? They are always a little in awe when I say yes. Then others, when I tell them of having met President Gorbachev, President Mubarak, or Chairman Arafat or some of the other names they read about all the time, say: Well, we can understand why you think that the people you get to meet is the fun part of the job and the most extraordinary benefit that comes from being a Senator. And that is true—meeting these famous people is something of a trip and a great opportunity.

I always explain to them that the great privilege is not only meeting the famous names. It is meeting my fellow Senators. This is an extraordinary body, filled with extraordinary individuals, many of whose names never get into the headlines beyond their own

States or outside of the circle of the beltway, but who bring to this body an incredible background of wisdom, experience, humor, perspective, balance, and understanding that makes it a great privilege and blessing for the rest of us to be with them.

PAUL COVERDELL and I came in the same class. We were sworn in on the same day. We went through the experience of being freshman Senators who didn't quite know our way around.

We would get together on a weekly basis, those in that class, and swap stories about how we had foolishly gone to the wrong room, or lost our way in a corridor, or found ourselves buried in the unexpected tide of work, mail, phone calls, and requests. We went through all that together as friends. We decided, in taking advantage of our situation as freshmen and serving in the minority, we would use the time that comes with that condition—time which more senior and majority Senators don't have—to educate ourselves and prepare ourselves for the service on which we were embarking.

PAUL arranged a trip to Kennebunkport to see his good friends, George and Barbara. The rest of us didn't call them George and Barbara. It was Mr. President and Mrs. Bush. PAUL knew them well enough, went back long enough with them, that he arranged for the freshmen class of Republicans to go up to Maine and spend a day with the Bushes. It was about 3 or 4 months after President Bush had lost the election. He was full of stories, reflections, and philosophic observations. It was a wonderful time. We also went together, under the sponsorship of Senator Dole, to New Jersey to have a similar day with President Nixon. PAUL was one of those who would use that, and any other occasion, to learn as much as he could soak up, to prepare himself as much as he could for whatever might come. That was one of the delightful things about it. He was enormously curious, always searching, and always anxious to find out how he could be of greater help.

We finally stopped meeting every week as we got busier ourselves and as we got a little more experienced in the way the Senate works, so that we didn't need to commiserate quite so much about our earlier blunders. But our class remained close. We gathered together when KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON was under fire in Texas and gave a little party for her before she left for her trial. We told her we would keep things straight until she could come back fully exonerated, which, of course, she has done. PAUL was a moving force in putting together that bit of solidarity among the members of our class.

PAUL is the one who moved on to a leadership position in our class. We were all proud of him, all happy to support him. It goes without saying that we will miss him terribly. But it is my conviction, Mr. President, that as we mourn, we do not mourn for PAUL. I don't know the details of what goes on,

but I think it is not out of the question to think that John Chafee may be showing PAUL the ropes now, suggesting to him that "it will work a little better if you go this way," or, "Yes, I tried that when I first got here. PAUL, let me show you the ropes." That may not be happening, but I don't think it is beyond the realm of possibility.

We do not mourn for PAUL; we mourn for ourselves, for the loss we have sustained, not for the problems he faces. The problems he faced are behind him now, as far as this life is concerned. And, knowing PAUL, he will be learning, inquiring, asking questions, trying to find out and progressing still further, as he always did as a Member of the Senate. It is our loss that moves us to tears—the fact that we will no longer have his companionship and his wisdom and his friendship. But just as I suggest John Chafee may be greeting PAUL, we can be confident that whenever the time might be for the rest of us, PAUL will be there to greet us, and that helps lift some of the gloom and sorrow we feel on this occasion.

I extend to Nancy and other members of PAUL's family my deepest sympathy and condolences at this time. And I express gratitude, once again, for the experiences I have had as a Senator of knowing great people, meeting extraordinary individuals, and partaking of their wisdom and guidance. I count PAUL COVERDELL in the first ranks of that group.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, except for those who knew PAUL COVERDELL and his constituents in Georgia, I suspect it is very hard for others who may be watching here today or who hear other tributes to PAUL COVERDELL to appreciate the depth of sadness that all of us in this Senate family feel by the loss of Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

PAUL COVERDELL was a special man. He was so active in nearly everything going on in the Senate that it is impossible to believe he is gone. The images of PAUL smiling, gesturing, counseling, are still so fresh. If there was an indispensable Senator, PAUL COVERDELL was it.

PAUL was a doer, as we all know. He was successful not because of his energy alone—though that was considerable—but because he was trusted by all and he sought no recognition for himself. His judgment was sound, his intelligence keen. He was always kind and cheerful, never critical. The word "helpful" does not even begin to describe the aid and assistance he was always so ready to provide.

I have lost a real friend and a confidant. Georgia and America have lost a great leader. PAUL's family's loss is incalculable, especially for Nancy and his mother. Our sense of grief is tempered only by the faith that the Lord has His own purposes. We take comfort in the wisdom of Abraham Lincoln who said: