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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father Damian Zuerlein, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Omaha, NE.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Damian Zuerlein, offered the following prayer:

In the presence of the God who called the universe into being we pray:

God of infinite wisdom and constant compassion, we call on Your Spirit to open our hearts to hear You. We know that You always accompany us no matter where our journeys lead. For You are the God not only of this moment; You are the God of forever. Today may Your love grace the Members of the United States Senate, their staffs, and all who work with them.

O God, may they help complete the work You have begun in our country. May a spirit of mercy, wisdom, and gentleness flow through them that will bring healing where there is hurt, peace where there is violence, justice where there is alienation, hope where there is despair, and beginnings where there are dead ends.

Waken in them, O God, gratitude for Your gifts, mystery in the mundane, welcome for strangers, love for every living thing, praise for You. May they always walk with God, live in God, and remain with God this day and 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). The Senator from Nebraska. Mr. HAGEL. I thank the Chair.

FATHER DAMIAN ZUERLEIN

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, first, before we get on to today's schedule, I wish to commend my friend, the guest Chaplain, this morning. Father Damian is extended best wishes and thanks from this body. Father Damian and I share a few things in common. One is we graduated from the same high school just a few years apart—actually, Mr. President, many years apart. Father Damian had the unenviable task of trying to redefine the standards that my brothers and I debated at St. Bonaventure High School and Scotus High School in Columbus, NE—not an easy task but one that he achieved with great dignity and success.

We are very proud of Father Damian for many reasons. He is pastor of two Catholic parishes in Omaha—St. Agnes and Our Lady of Guadalupe in south Omaha.

Mr. President, you know a little bit about ethnic areas, coming from Colorado. Father Damian has done as much to bring the Hispanic community of Nebraska—indeed, middle America—together as any one individual I have known in the last few years, and he has done it with remarkable ability, with common sense and truth. People respect him not just because he wears the Lord's uniform but because he has done it the right way; he brings respect and dignity to all whom he touches; he conveys that as he deals with people. We are very proud of what he has been able to accomplish in our community and across the Midwest, aside from being nationally recognized for his achievements with many recognitions and honors. We are very proud to have him among us this morning.

And again, on a personal note, it is wonderful to see Father Damian after

making the trek to Washington. Under the able tutelage of our resident Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, I know he has learned much this morning.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will my friend from Nebraska yield for a moment?

Mr. HAGEL. Yes.

Mr. REID. I think it is appropriate to say in front of the good priest that people in Nebraska are well served by the two Senators who come from Nebraska. I am sure he is very proud of the work Senator HAGEL and Senator KERREY perform for Nebraska in the Senate.

Mr. HAGEL. I thank the Senator. As a matter of fact, as the Senator knows, there was a little reception and party for my distinguished senior colleague, Senator KERREY of Nebraska, last night. Father Damian was able to participate and extend his long arm of justice and spiritual guidance over that gathering, even in the midst of some bandits who attended. The real coup de grace of last night's event was the distinguished senior Senator from New York toasting our colleague, Senator KERREY—an old Navy toast. I observed that I never believed that serving in the Navy was a particular virtue, but nonetheless he was toasted with the Senator's eloquent remarks.

I thank the Senator.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4444, the China PNTR legislation. Under a previous agreement, there are 10 amendments remaining for debate. Those Senators who have amendments on the list are encouraged to work with the bill managers on a time to complete debate on their amendments. Senators can expect votes on amendments to occur throughout today's session. Also, under the agreement, there

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are up to 6 hours of general debate remaining on the bill. It is hoped that action can be completed on this important trade bill by late this week or early next week.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

TO AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4444, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4444) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the People's Republic of China, and to establish a framework for relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

Pending:

Wellstone amendment No. 4118, to require that the President certify to Congress that the People's Republic of China has taken certain actions with respect to ensuring human rights protection.

Wellstone amendment No. 4121, to strengthen the rights of workers to associate, organize and strike.

Smith (of N.H.) amendment No. 4129, to require that the Congressional-Executive Commission monitor the cooperation of the People's Republic of China with respect to POW/MIA issues, improvement in the areas of forced abortions, slave labor, and organ harvesting (divisions 1 thru 5).

Hollings amendment No. 4134, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to require corporations to disclose foreign investment-related information in 10-K reports.

Hollings amendment No. 4135, to authorize and request the President to report to the Congress annually beginning in January, 2001, on the balance of trade with China for cereals (wheat, corn, and rice) and soybeans, and to direct the President to eliminate any deficit.

Hollings amendment No. 4136, to authorize and request the President to report to the Congress annually, beginning in January, 2001, on the balance of trade with China for advanced technology products, and direct the President to eliminate any deficit.

Hollings amendment No. 4137, to condition eligibility for risk insurance provided by the Export-Import Bank or the Overseas Private Investment Corporation on certain certifications.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 4118 AND 4121, WITHDRAWN

Mr. REID. In an effort to expedite this legislation, I ask unanimous consent that amendments Nos. 4118 and 4121 be withdrawn.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Russ Holland, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privi-

leges during the consideration of H.R. 4444.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that 30 minutes of the time controlled by the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, with respect to this legislation be under the control of the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN; further, that the additional 10 minutes of morning business time be designated to be controlled by the Senator from Florida, Mr. GRAHAM, that that be done this morning; and following Senator GRAHAM, Senator KENNEDY be recognized for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

Mr. HAGEL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. HAGEL. May I ask unanimous consent that after Senator KENNEDY, Senator CRAIG would be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HOLLINGS. Wait a minute, Mr. President. I was told to be here at 11 o'clock. We have these amendments. We are trying to give everybody 10 minutes here or there, so I am starting, instead of 11 o'clock, I guess we are going to 11:30, quarter to 12, and we are trying to get through these amendments. I am trying to move to the State-Justice-Commerce appropriations bill.

So what is the disposition here? What do the managers of the bill wish?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There was an order that each leader have 10 minutes for morning business. That was ordered from last night.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Very well.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could say to my friend from South Carolina, the schedule has been delayed this morning, of course, because of the speech by the Prime Minister of India, and we got started much later than we anticipated. Senator GRAHAM has been seeking an opportunity for quite some time to be able to speak on an issue that is very important to him, as has Senator KENNEDY. So the time agreements will just have to start when we finish the morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. I thank the Chair.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, prescription medication is one of the most significant issues before the family of America. Unfortunately, the family is hearing most of this through 30-second television ads. These ads tend to be long on rhetoric and short on substance.

I hope the Senate can serve its national purpose as a great deliberative

body by bringing some deeper focus on an issue which affects, in the most intimate way, tens of millions of our citizens. I hope I can contribute to this by a series of floor statements on different aspects of this important national issue of prescription medication, especially for older Americans.

Older Americans often must take their medicine on a daily basis. It is important that the Senate also get a daily dose of reality of life for those older Americans. I invite my colleagues with similar or differing perspectives to join me so we can have a daily discussion on this important issue. I am pleased today to be joined by my colleague, Senator KENNEDY, and invite others to join.

We have before the Senate the opportunity to achieve a broadly shared objective—reforming Medicare. Many of my colleagues have discussed Medicare reform in the context of administrative changes and organizational restructuring. While there is certainly merit to that discussion, I believe the most fundamental reform that must be made to the Medicare program is changing Medicare from a program that is based on acute care, illness, treatment after the fact, and to move it to a program that emphasizes prevention, wellness, and the maintenance of the quality of life. That is the fundamental reform we must make in Medicare.

To accomplish this shift we must first recognize that the face of health care has changed dramatically since the inception of Medicare in 1965. Thirty-five years ago, America's health care system was almost wholly reacting. Patients sought help from chronic conditions that flared up, or waited to see a doctor when acute conditions hit or if they had a serious accident. Their care was typically delivered in hospitals. Medicare responded to this acute care, hospital-based health care system.

The fundamental reason the program was structured as such was based on the fact that most Americans lived only a few years after they reached retirement. As we know from our colleague, Senator MOYNIHAN, the original rationale for 65 as the basis of retirement was the fact that date was set in Europe at the end of the 19th century when the average life expectancy of a European male was only 62. There was a high degree of cynicism in the selection of that date. That date has continued to be an important part of our culture. Only a few decades ago the average American could only expect 7 years of life expectancy after they reached 65. Today the average American has almost 20 years of life expectancy after they reach the age of 65, and by the end of this century an American can expect almost 30 years of life expectancy after attaining the age of 65.

We must reform Medicare to assure that today's seniors can spend that gift of years living healthy, productive lives. This can be done if we make an investment in prevention care, which