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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2001

The Senate met at 3:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

PRAYER

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

Loving Father, as the war against terrorism continues, and now takes on even more immediate dangers here in the United States Senate, we cry out to You for Your protection and Your power. Protect the Senators and all of us who work with and for them from the insidious threats of bio-terrorism. Calm our nerves; replace panic with Your peace. Especially we pray for our Majority Leader TOM DASCHLE and his staff in this time of examination of the possible threat to their health from today's incident. Help us all to be alert to further dangers, but give us courage to press on in our work with a renewed commitment to serve our Nation here in the Senate with even greater patriotism than ever before. You have promised to be with us in our times of greatest need. We need You now, dear God. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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 LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican leader, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, announces the appointment of the Senator from Utah, Mr. BENNETT, as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission; vice the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN.

The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission:

The Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN; vice the Senator from Utah, Mr. BENNETT.

The Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID; vice the Senator from Ohio, Mr. DEWINE.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 this afternoon. At 4:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to

H.R. 2506, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, with the time until 5:30 evenly divided between the chairman, Senator LEAHY, and the ranking member, Senator MCCONNELL. We will have a cloture vote at 5:30.

THE RECENT FOCUS ON ISLAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, during this time of trouble, since September 11, there has been a lot of attention focused on Islam. I can say that I have had some exposure to this religion. It is a religion that builds great character. It is a religion that has a very fine health code. It is basically a very good religion. My wife, who has had some illness in her time, has two physicians who are Muslims. They are wonderful men. They are close friends. One is an internist and one is a surgeon. Her family physician—the person who takes care of her more often than not—is Dr. Anwar. Her surgeon is Dr. Khan. I have been in their homes on several occasions, going back almost 20 years—well, more than that, 25 years. We are social friends. I have had the pleasure of going to their beautiful new mosque in Las Vegas, where these two men and their families worship.

We in America, this past 4 weeks, have come to better understand this religion. But we have a lot more that we need to understand. I received a letter—and I am sure other Senators received the same letter—which I would like to read into the RECORD. It is a letter addressed to me, dated September 14, 2001. It says:

Honorable Senator: We are writing this letter in light of the horrific tragedy that

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



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struck America on September 11, 2001. We would like to extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to families of all civilians and rescue workers who lost their loved ones in the tragedy. May Allah bless them and give them courage during this time of grief and extreme sadness. We also pray for the steady and early recovery of individuals who suffered injuries as a result of the incident.

We would like you to know that although perpetrators of such heinous crimes more often than not justify these acts in the name of religion, we do not support their ideas. Islam for instance, condemns senseless acts of violence against fellow human beings. As the Qur'an so aptly states in Chapter 5, vs. 32, "For that cause we decreed for the children of Israel that whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind." All in all, Islam values human life and applauds its preservation rather than its destruction. It is a religion that preaches peace, love, justice and tolerance for people from all walks of life.

Moreover, we would like to clarify a misconception that many people harbor in their minds about Islam. Islam is not a religion that was founded by Prophet Muhammad rather, it is a continuation of the earlier Revelations that were made to Prophets Abraham (Ibrahim), David (Dawood), Moses (Musa) and Jesus (Issa) in the Torah and the Bible. Prophet Mohammed was the last Prophet though whom the Final Revelation was made—that Final Revelation is the Qur'an. On that note, please accept the enclosed copy of the Holy Qur'an as a token of our support.

I do have that and I have read part of that since having received it.

The letter goes on:

Finally, we would like to applaud the tireless rescue efforts that have been underway for the past few days and also pray for all those who are involved in this mission and wish them every success.

Signed by Aunali Khalfan, who is with the Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., based in Elmhurst, NY.

I believed it was appropriate to spread across the RECORD of this Senate this very thoughtful letter that I received hoping it will lead to a better understanding of this very fine religion which 6 million Americans follow, the teachings of Islam.

I ask unanimous consent—I see my friend from Alaska here—that I be allowed 10 more minutes to complete a statement on another subject.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Hearing no objection, the Senator from Nevada is recognized for 10 additional minutes.

SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week the Senate continued demonstrating its resolve to move forward in a bipartisan manner, following on the footsteps of the resolution allowing force, the \$40 billion for New York-related matters, moneys that were made available, and the airline bailout, costing billions of additional dollars, plus legislation which allowed relief for those people who were injured physically and

killed in that incident. Last week we moved even further; we passed a very strong aviation security bill and extremely tough antiterrorism legislation. I believe this sends a strong message to those who are watching our Nation's response to the attacks of September 11.

Everywhere I go—and I am sure it is the same with the President pro tempore and my friend from Alaska who is in the Chamber—people are amazed and appreciative of the bipartisanship that has been shown these past 5 weeks. People all over America—Nevada is no exception—hope we can maintain this bipartisanship and pass legislation that is good for this country.

If there is legislation that passes that is good, everyone can take credit for that, but if we do not pass legislation that is necessary for the well-being of this country, everyone rightfully has to take blame for that.

We as Democrats are working closely with the President to provide our military with the support it needs to fight this war against terrorism. We are working with our Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We are proceeding with the proper amount of caution and purpose, but we are meeting our obligation to complete our work in an orderly manner. I hope that can continue this week.

The reason I say that is we are voting at 5:30 p.m. today on something I think is totally unnecessary. We are trying to move forward and complete our appropriations bills. We have an extremely important piece of legislation. It is the foreign operations appropriations bill that funds our involvement in the world. It is one of the 13 appropriations bills. We were unable to move to that last week. We had to file a cloture motion on a motion to proceed to the legislation.

That is just wrong, and to the people who are causing us to go through these procedural hoops to get to this legislation, I have to say respectfully, it is not good for this country. Why are they not allowing us to go forward on this most important legislation? Because they say we are not approving enough judges.

Senator LEAHY, who is an outstanding Member of this Senate—there is not a better patriot anyplace in America than PAT LEAHY—working with the ranking member, ORRIN HATCH, has been working very hard. Antiterrorism legislation has taken up every spare minute they have had, but in spite of that, they also have been able to report out some judges.

Maybe it is not enough. I am willing to accept maybe it is not enough, but work with us and let's get some more done.

What we could have said was we were not going to have any more judges until you allowed us to go forward on these appropriations bills. We have not done that. Whenever judges are ready to move through the Senate, we approve them. We approved two last

week. More are going to be ready this week. We are going to approve those judges in spite of what I believe is a wrongheaded legislative tactic on behalf of some people in the minority.

We have to complete action on these annual appropriations bills. There is no more reassuring message we can send to the American people than to pass these bills.

Now, more than ever, people are turning to government, especially the Federal Government, for assurances that we are ready to respond to anything. Certainly we should be able to do the basic things this Government has to do every year; that is, pass these appropriations bills. Keeping our Government open and running can only be accomplished with the passage of these appropriations bills. To not act on these bills now is irresponsible. We are trying to be responsible.

The Presiding Officer is the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. It is a distinct honor to be chairman of that Appropriations Committee, no question, but there is no one in the United States who has more knowledge of the legislative process than the President pro tempore. I cannot imagine how he must feel in that we are not able to move forward on these appropriations bills—held up over somebody thinking we are not approving enough judges.

The American people have a lot of problems on their minds right now, but I bet there are very few who are concerned about us not having more judges. I have yet to have anybody from Nevada say: Could you get us some more judges? And Nevada is the most rapidly growing State in the Nation. We have two judges who are in the pipeline. They are going to be approved, Mr. President. I am not worried about it.

My two friends are going to be judges: Mr. Hicks and Judge Mayhan. They are going to be approved. These people are not doing those two men any favors by holding up these appropriations bills.

Secretary Powell, Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary Thompson, and Attorney General Ashcroft are not worrying about whether there are enough judges. Some believe this is our way to get us some more judges.

Senator DASCHLE, the majority leader, and I have said on many occasions, this is not payback time as to the fact we did not get many judges. We are approving the judges as quickly as we can. I am sure there was more that could have been done in the Judiciary Committee. Maybe Senator LEAHY and Senator HATCH should have set aside some of the antiterrorism work they were doing and moved on some of these judges. As one of my children would say: Give us a break; we are doing our best. This is not good government. I hope we can move forward on at least a motion to proceed today so we can get this legislation out of the way.

I see my friend—as I have said a couple times today—from Alaska. I am