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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CARL LEVIN, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, in a world of crises and change, we are grateful that You are the same, yesterday, today, and forever! Your love is constant and never changes. You have called us to belong to You, to trust You, and to serve You.

With renewed dependence on You we accept our Nation's role as a defender of freedom in the world. We need Your guidance and strength for the present war against terrorism. We have been attacked by a terrorist movement with religious fanaticism. They call us infidels and harbor historic hatred against us. Our deep commitment is to free Afghanistan from the tyranny of the Taliban and the terrorism of al Qaeda. When our enemy claims to have divine approbation for its destructive cause, we reaffirm our historic conviction that our Nation's calling is to seek to be on Your side, rather than glibly presume that You are always on our side. Help us to keep our priorities straight: to seek to serve You first above all and to battle for righteousness, justice, and freedom. Bless our President and all who work with him in sorting out the strategy of this just war. Lead on, O Sovereign Lord; we are one Nation under You, indivisible and invincible only with Your power. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CARL LEVIN 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 5, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CARL LEVIN, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE.

Mr. LEVIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 5:45 p.m., and the time is to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. As the Chair announced, there will be a period of morning business until 5:45. At that time, the Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 515, Larry Hicks, to be a United States district judge. There will be 15 minutes of debate equally divided between the chair and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee or their designees, and we will vote at 6 p.m.

I ask my friend from Wyoming if he wishes to speak. I will give a few remarks that will take a little bit of time. I do not want to have the Senator wait.

Mr. THOMAS. Go right ahead. I am not in any hurry and I am desperate to hear the remarks of the Senator.

GRATITUDE TO SENATE EMPLOYEES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we in the Senate take a number of things for granted that we should not. There have been a number of speeches and remarks made on the floor and other public venues regarding how we depend on our Capitol Police. They do such a remarkably good job. Since September 11 they have worked endless hours, night and day, literally, 7 days a week, making not only Members feel secure, but the thousands of people who visit this Capitol complex and the thousands of employees we have. We have 26,000 employees working in the 3 Senate office buildings and 3 House office buildings. Again, I underscore and emphasize how indebted we are to the Capitol Police.

Within the Senate we have a lot of people who render invaluable service to the Senate. One of the most important features of the Senate is that we are always in line on parliamentary issues. The Chair rules, but at the present time we have just two Parliamentarians who are experts on the rules of the Senate. They do a remarkably good job. They are bipartisan in nature. Their rulings are grounded in precedent and have no regard for party affiliation. We never hear the Parliamentarians say a word yet their duties are essential to the operation of the U.S. Senate. The Chair rules, and always rules correctly. The reason for that is they have the backup of these two fine Parliamentarians, Alan Frumin and Elizabeth MacDonough. I am speaking for the entire Senate when I say what an outstanding job they do day in and day out. Perhaps we take these two people, this fine young woman Elizabeth MacDonough and this fine man,

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



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Alan Frumin, for granted. We should not do that. They do outstanding work. If the Senate is in session, Elizabeth and Alan are on duty. These past couple of months have been trying times for many. These two outstanding individuals have risen to the occasion. Their tireless service to the Senate deserves our recognition and expressions of appreciation. Their job is not easy and often involves making the toughest of the calls. They are fair, balanced and wise and their invaluable contribution to the U.S. Senate merits our praise.

WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in America, for all the advances that have been made, women still have a little ways to go. They still earn only 74 cents for every \$1 a man makes doing the exact same work. Women pay 68 percent more in out-of-pocket costs for health care than men. Almost half of all large health plans do not cover any form of contraception. Although women make up over half of our population, Federal funding for specific illnesses that relate to women has not kept pace with health needs. That is an understatement.

While I cannot overstate the importance of achieving gender equality in the United States, these issues pale in comparison to the gender apartheid the Afghan women experience under the Taliban. The difference between the problems of American and Afghan women is the difference in height of Mount Everest and Death Valley. The separation is as large as it can be on this Earth, the difference between night and day.

Gender apartheid is not unlike racial apartheid in South Africa where the black majority suffered appalling human rights violations. In South Africa, people of color were deprived of legal and economic rights, mixed marriages were forbidden by law, residential areas were segregated, and many were forced to live in slums. One of the most far-reaching consequences of apartheid in South Africa was its impact on education. Children of color were educated at a very low level, if at all. Children were taught things such as dishwashing and weeding flower beds.

It is difficult to imagine a system worse than apartheid in South Africa. Sadly, this is the case for Afghan women suffering unthinkable violations of their most basic human rights. While I don't in any way diminish what went on in South Africa, what is going on in Afghanistan is every bit as bad as, if not worse than, what went on in South Africa.

Why do I say that? By virtue of decrees by the Government in power, the Taliban, every aspect of a woman's right in Afghanistan, from their behavior to their dress, is under edict, under rule. For example, women cannot work outside the home. Women are not al-

lowed to receive any education. They cannot even be home schooled; that is a violation of law. Women in Afghanistan today cannot leave their homes unless they are accompanied by a close male relative such as a father, a brother, or a husband. When they do leave their homes, women must be covered from head to toe in a burqa. When I say head to toe, I mean they cannot have a strand of hair showing. Their eyes do not show.

Every Senator will get in the next day or so a little package that shows this piece of cloth with holes in it. This is what the women wear over their eyes so that people cannot see their eyes. Think of how unsanitary, how humiliating it is to have every inch of their skin covered. But that is the way it is in Afghanistan. Every woman must have every part of her skin covered.

So when they do leave their homes, they are covered from head to toe. Women who disobey this rule will be subject to verbal abuse, beatings, whippings. There was a film put out by the Feminist Majority, and I watched Friday in my home this videotape of the treatment of women. It is hard to comprehend in this modern world that women are beaten with sticks; they are stoned, stoned to death on occasion, for doing things that are not within the rules.

Women cannot deal with male shopkeepers. If they go out, even with their husband or brother or father, they still cannot buy anything unless the transaction is made by somebody who is with them. They cannot be treated by male doctors. Women who let their ankles show for some reason—they stumble, they fall, they sit, and an ankle shows—are whipped, and they are not whipped privately; they are whipped in public. Women accused of having sex outside of marriage—accused of having sex outside of marriage—by their husband or someone else will be stoned. I saw this on the videotape. They are killed by being stoned.

No cosmetics. This includes deodorant, and certainly nothing on their face. Women who have their nails painted have had their fingers cut off. Women are banned from talking or shaking hands with men. Women are prohibited from laughing. No stranger should hear a woman's voice.

I wish I were making this up, but I am not. Women cannot wear high heels. But even to carry this to a further extreme, you cannot hear a woman when they walk. A man must not hear a woman's footsteps. They cannot ride in a taxi without a close male relative. A woman's presence in radio, television, or public outings of any kind is forbidden. Women certainly can't play in sports, enter a sports club. Women are banned from riding bicycles or motorcycles, even with a close relative. And remember, that is the only mode of transportation in some places.

Women cannot wear brightly colored clothes, even though the burqa covers

every part of their body, because in Taliban terms these are considered sexually attracting clothes—bright colors. Women are prohibited from gathering for festive occasions or for any recreational purpose. Women cannot wash clothes in rivers or in public places. Women are banned from appearing even on balconies of their apartments or houses. And to carry it even further, in homes where the women live, you have to paint the windows so that people cannot see in, for fear you could see a woman inside the home. Male tailors cannot take women's measurements or sew women's clothes.

One of the few things women could participate in was to take baths. They don't have private baths but they have public baths. No more. Since 1995 that is all through. No more public baths. Males and females cannot travel on the same bus. Public buses are designated "males only" or "females only." Flared or wide-legged pant legs even under their burqas are not allowed. Women cannot be photographed or filmed. Women's pictures cannot appear in newspapers or books or even be hung on walls in houses or shops.

The only thing worse than these restrictions that the Taliban Government has placed against women is the punishments of those who dare to disobey. Penalties include public beatings, torture, stoning, as I have already talked about, and of course executions.

Let's be very clear. This is not a question of cultural differences. The Taliban's inhumane treatment of women has nothing to do with religion and everything to do with power. Nowhere does the Islamic religion say women cannot be educated or employed. In fact, the President of the world's largest Islamic nation, Indonesia, is a woman.

The toll the Taliban's rule has taken on Afghan women is profound. The rate of illiteracy among girls now is over 90 percent. Women have no access to health care. As a result, an estimated 45 women die every day from pregnancy-related causes.

Afghanistan—there may be other countries—is the only country I know where the life expectancy for a woman is shorter than for a man. To show what that country has gone through and is going through, the average life expectancy for a man is 48 years. For a woman it is lower.

Ninety percent of Afghan women suffer from severe depression, and the suicide rate among the Afghan women is too large to count. Sadly, many women resort to killing themselves, and what they have found is, they use caustic soda that burns away the throat; it takes 3 torturous days for a woman to die. The only surgeon who can do anything about this in Afghanistan is in a hospital that is closed to women.

In Kabul there are over 40,000 widows as a result of the war. Because the Taliban forbids women from working, they are forced into begging, and under penalty of death some of these women