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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is very pleased today to have as our guest Chaplain Mrs. Anne Graham Lotz, AnGeL Ministries, Raleigh, NC, who will lead the Senate in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Would you pray with me, please.

Our father, we bow before You and we acknowledge You as the one true living God. In the darkness, You are our light. In a time of despair, You are our hope. And in time of grief, You are our comfort. At this time of war, You are our peace.

In the words of the prophet Daniel: We come to You as the great and awesome God, one who keeps His covenant of love with generations, with those who love Him and obey Him. And we come to You, O God, and we acknowledge that You are righteous, but we are wrong. We have done so many wrong things because we are sinners. And yet You are merciful and forgiving. We have been wicked. We have turned away from Your laws and decrees. We have not listened to Your prophets who spoke in Your name.

Yet, Lord, we come to You now pleading for Your mercy. We ask that You hear the prayers and petitions of Your servants, not because we are righteous but because You are merciful and forgiving. We plead for Your mercy.

Dear God, please hear our prayer. As we pray, forgive us our sin. We pray, God, bless America. And we ask this claiming the promise in II Chronicles, chapter 7, when You have said that a Nation who is identified with You, whether they are shaken economically or financially or personally or nationally or militarily, that if that Nation that is identified with You would hum-

ble themselves and pray and seek Your face and turn from their wicked ways, You would hear our prayer; that You would forgive our sin; that You would heal our land.

So, sovereign Lord, we ask, please, God of the universe, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Father of Jesus Christ, we humbly ask that as we repent of our sin, You would hear our prayer; that You would forgive; that You would heal our land. We pray this for the glory of Your name. And we ask these things in the name of Your son and our saviour, Jesus Christ, who, through his own shed blood on the cross, offers us forgiveness of our sin and reconciliation with You.

It is in the name of Jesus Christ that we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER 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, September 19, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. CLINTON thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I know Senator HELMS wishes to address the Senate, and we will make arrangements for that in just a minute.

The first hour and a half is equally divided between the two parties, with the first 15 minutes under my control. So I ask unanimous consent that Senator HELMS be recognized for up to 4 minutes, and that following that, when the bill is called forward, I would yield my time, my 15 minutes, to Senator BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the 4 minutes Senator HELMS uses be taken off the time of the minority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. At 11:30, we are going to resume consideration of the Homeland Security Act, and there will be an hour of debate on that matter before the cloture vote. We will vote at approximately 12:30. Members have until 12 noon today to file second-degree amendments to the Lieberman substitute amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to make my remarks seated at my desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, during my almost 30 years in the Senate, I have been honored to welcome dozens of remarkably gifted guest Chaplains. Today's guest Chaplain, Anne Graham Lotz, of Raleigh, NC, my hometown, is

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



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one of North Carolina's most distinguished citizens and one of America's most beloved evangelists who, for more than 25 years, has been taking the good news of Jesus Christ across the United States and to many foreign countries.

Of course, she is the daughter of the remarkable two people, Billy and Ruth Graham. And this remarkable lady has preached the gospel to hundreds of thousands of Americans, filling up large civic arenas in countless major U.S. cities as well.

Anne Graham Lotz has addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York. She represented her distinguished father at Amsterdam 2000, the largest gathering of evangelists in history.

Anne Graham Lotz is a leader of Just Give Me Jesus, which is making a nationwide tour to spark a spiritual revival. This past April, Anne's tour came to Raleigh where more than 26,000 people packed our city's largest arena for 2 days of singing and praying and teaching, led by—who else?—Anne Graham Lotz.

Anne is the final guest Chaplain whom Dot Helms and I will have the privilege of hosting. That is appropriate because Dot's and my family have known and loved her and her great family for a long time.

The first time I heard Anne's blessed father, Billy Graham, was in 1951. At that time, I was administrative assistant to a distinguished Senator from North Carolina, the late Willis Smith. Billy preached just steps from this Chamber on the East Front of the Capitol, and I had read in the Washington Sunday morning paper that he was to be here. And I said: Mercy, I don't believe he will have anybody here. I am going over there and make sure that one North Carolinian joins him. Well, Madam President, there was standing room only from the doors of the Capitol all the way to the Supreme Court.

Anne is joined today by her husband, Dr. Danny Lotz, who was a star basketball player during his years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Their two daughters, Rachel-Ruth and Morrow, are with us this morning along with their husbands, Steven Wright and Traynor Reitmeier, and Anne's granddaughter, Bell.

So, Madam President, Anne Graham Lotz is herself an integral part of Billy Graham's remarkable legacy, and it is my honor to have presented her to the United States Senate this morning.

I yield the floor.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I wish to welcome our guest Chaplain today, along with Senator HELMS. I am very proud that she would be our guest Chaplain. Her father is a friend of all of ours and received the well deserved congressional gold medal. It is obvious by listening to Anne Graham Lotz that she possesses that same great character, inspiration, and leadership as a preacher as well. I welcome her to the Senate and compliment and congratu-

late Senator HELMS for inviting her to be our guest Chaplain.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 5093, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5093) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Byrd Amendment No. 4472, in the nature of a substitute.

Byrd Amendment No. 4480 (to Amendment No. 4472), to provide funds to repay accounts from which funds were borrowed for emergency wildfire suppression.

Craig/Domenici Amendment No. 4518 (to Amendment No. 4480), to reduce hazardous fuels on our national forests.

Dodd Amendment No. 4522 (to Amendment No. 4472), to prohibit the expenditure of funds to recognize Indian tribes and tribal nations until the date of implementation of certain administrative procedures.

Byrd/Stevens Amendment No. 4532 (to Amendment No. 4472), to provide for critical emergency supplemental appropriations.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the first 15 minutes shall be under the control of the Senator from Nevada or his designee.

The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I rise today to speak to the issue of fire suppression in our beautiful national forests, an issue that concerns every American because those are our forests, and the policy that we follow must be a balanced and good policy to make sure we preserve that incredible God-given resource. Many people heard the prayer today, and we think about the spiritual needs and we think about our obligations. I believe one spiritual obligation we have is to preserve in this country the wonder and beauty that God gave us.

Madam President, like many of my colleagues, I have watched with frustration and anger and sorrow as millions of acres of forests have been destroyed each year by catastrophic wildfires. This year the fire season has been particularly severe in my State of California, as well as in a number of Western States, such as Arizona and New Mexico.

After an extremely destructive fire season in 2000, the Departments of Agriculture and Interior took the promising step of developing what is now referred to as a National Forest Plan.

Among other things, the fire plan clearly indicates that priorities should be given to the clearance of brush, undergrowth, near communities and homes. The fire plan clearly says the most important way to stop the damage to the people and to their property is to clear the undergrowth near communities and homes.

Consensus emerged around the idea that, yes, there would have to be some thinning of trees and clearing of brush but not clearing of the old-growth trees, which actually take a very long time to burn and are important to keep in our forests.

We thought we had an agreement with this administration. Yet recent GAO reports indicate the USDA and the Department of the Interior have been ineffective and inefficient in implementing that fire plan.

So what has happened? We have an ineffective and inefficient situation happening in the Department of the Interior and the USDA, and we have out-of-control fires. Well, Senators CRAIG and DOMENICI have come forward with what they say is a solution. What is it? Let's be clear.

Their amendment proposes to waive the National Environmental Planning Act, known as NEPA, which is a critical law in the Nation, and they would limit the public's ability to challenge agency decisions and restrict what we call judicial review. In other words, a judge would no longer be able to take a look at what is happening and intervene, which is a very important part of our balance of powers. If Senator BYRD were here, he would no doubt hold up the Constitution. The judicial branch is very important and the Craig-Domenici amendment would essentially weaken that leg of our Government in order to allow for the cutting of precious old-growth trees.

So the approach of the Craig-Domenici amendment, and the reason I am here—and I see my colleague from Washington and I assume she is here to speak on the same issue, so I will be brief. The approach gives the agencies complete discretion to engage in thinning and salvage logging at will. To me, this is a recipe for disaster. The waiver of environmental safeguards and elimination of judicial review are not steps to be taken lightly, and I believe there is no justification for it because they are not the source of the problem.

There is actually evidence to the contrary. In a recent letter to Senator CRAIG, the GAO determined that only 1 percent of hazardous fuel reduction projects were appealed in 2001 and none had been litigated. GAO found that the list of appellants not only included conservation groups, which have been attacked here as being radical in some way for exercising the rights that citizens have, but GAO found that the other appellants were recreation groups, industry interests, and individuals.

If you see a project is destroying our forests, that road should not be closed