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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Once again, today's prayer will be offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Campbell Gillon of Georgetown Presbyterian Church.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Lord God, in a world where power usually rules by subjection and oppression, we stand before Thee whose rule, if lovingly accepted, raises us to a new freedom of living and spirit of hope.

We remember the story of Moses giving the Pharaoh Thy word, which was not just a plea for freedom—"Let my people go!", but "Let my people go that they may worship Me, serve Me!"—freedom for a purpose.

Teach us, O God, that when freedom is made an end in itself, and not the means to a greater end, it easily degenerates into license and self pleasing. The finale is not freedom, but community destroyed and people self-enslaved.

Lord, we know that those Israelites, when freed, were given by Thee in the wilderness a purpose—to live by those basic commandments, rules for peace and harmony. These we neglect at our peril. For if no divine nature, name, and day is shown reverence and there is not respect for parents, life, relationships, and truth, then a society disintegrates from within, since there is no reverence and respect for anything but the solitary self.

Lord God, unless Thou build humanity's house, those who try labor in vain. Unless Thou guard a civilization's city, its protectors are caught napping. So, grant grace to this elected body of Senators, leaders in this superpower, that they may be led to use aright our freedom's dear-bought opportunities, aware of ends beyond the material and the visions that make life noble. This

we ask in the name of love revealed. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m. At 1 o'clock, the Senate will then resume consideration of S. 14, the Energy bill. The chairman and the ranking member will be here and will be prepared for Members to come forward with their amendments over the course of today. This is an important piece of legislation that will enhance the energy security of this Nation. I expect that the Senate will make substantial progress on this important bill this week.

As I announced previously, no roll-call votes will occur during today's session. However, Members will be able to offer amendments. I encourage them to do so. Any votes ordered on those amendments will be scheduled to occur during tomorrow's session.

Also this week the Senate will need to address the Defense authorization bill that will be received from the House shortly. Prior to the recess, we finished action on the Senate bill; however, we still need to dispose of a few remaining amendments prior to going to conference with the House. That should take only a couple of hours. We will likely consider that bill one night this week after we spend the day on the

consideration of the Energy bill. I will keep my colleagues advised as to what evening that will be.

In addition, we have continued to try to reach agreements on the FAA reauthorization and the State Department reauthorization bills. At some point we will have to proceed to those matters even if we are unable to reach a consent agreement for their consideration.

I should also mention there are a number of Executive Calendar nominations that have been pending for a long period of time. Oftentimes these nominations get caught up in other issues. Again, at some point, I will proceed to the consideration of those nominations that have been pending for a while. If Members want to debate a particular nominee, they will need to come to the Senate floor to do so.

In addition to the items I just mentioned, we have a number of other important issues to address, one of which is prescription drug benefits and strengthening and improving our Medicare Program for 35 million seniors and a million individuals with disabilities. I have stated for a number of weeks—in fact, for the last couple of months—that we will be addressing this particular issue, an issue that is important to the American people, both those who are seniors now, those soon to be seniors, and future generations, and we will be addressing that this month. Much of that activity begins in the Finance Committee this week—in fact, today there are discussions going on—and each and every day from now until we bring it to the floor. We plan on bringing that to the floor in 2 weeks.

Having said that, I look forward to a busy and productive legislative period prior to the next scheduled adjournment. A number of people are coming back into town today after a period of a week being primarily at their homes with their constituencies across the United States of America. We are hoping right into the Energy bill today

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



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and through this week, followed by a number of issues this week. We will begin the appropriations process very quickly and spend a focused period of time on prescription drugs and strengthening and improving Medicare.

I yield the floor.

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 until the hour of 1 p.m. with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Wyoming.

ENERGY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, although it is morning business, I will talk about the energy policy we will be considering later today and for the rest of the week. I am delighted we are going to work on that. We have been working on an energy policy for some time. We worked on it last year and passed it in the Senate and the House. Unfortunately, the system we used did not produce results and did not go through the committees; therefore, we had problems when we got to the conference committee.

This year, we are back again and more committed to complete our work than we were last year. We should be. When we think about life, work, and the economy, what is more important than energy? Whatever we are doing, wherever we are, whether we are driving, riding, reading, cooking, energy is consumed. It is certainly something we need to think about, how it affects our lives and what impact we can have on energy.

What we are talking about is an energy policy. It is important to remember that. We are not talking about an issue that needs to be resolved, a part of the energy issue that needs to be resolved this week or this month. We are talking about an energy policy. As we talk about it, I am hopeful we can try to see a vision of where we want to be in the future, what is necessary to be successful in the future, and that we can set this policy in terms of what we need to do 10 or 15 years from now. As we move toward that and make immediate decisions we can gauge whether or not these decisions are useful in achieving the goals we have set for ourselves. I think it is very important that we take a look at all the aspects of energy. We have gotten ourselves into a position where we have to rely about 60 percent on imports of oil from an area in the world that is very unsettled. So I think it is important that we take a look at conservation, that we

look at alternatives, that we look at research, that we look at domestic production, so we can find a policy for the future.

As you will recall, one of the first things President Bush and Vice President CHENEY moved toward when they came into office was to set an energy policy, to begin to look ahead at what we need to be doing. They still, of course, are very involved in that.

To achieve the kind of lifestyle we want in the 21st century, we have to have reliable energy and a clean environment. These two needs are not necessarily conflicting. We have to deal with them so they do fit together. They can.

We need to modernize conservation. We obviously use more energy than is necessary. Sometimes we could make those changes just by our use. We can make changes by using different kinds of equipment.

We need to modernize our infrastructure. Energy production has changed over the years, whether it is gas that is produced in the West and the markets are in the Midwest or in the East, where you have to have a way to get it there. We see more and more energy produced by merchant generators, ready for markets a good ways away from the generator, where you have to have transmission.

We have to increase our supplies. We are going to be using more and more energy, of course. That includes renewables. Excluding hydro, now renewables only amount to about 3 percent of our total energy use. That is not very much. There are great opportunities to do more.

As we do it, we need to upgrade and increase our improvements for the protection of the environment.

Of course, the thing that has become much more apparent to us lately is the need for security. So as we talk about energy, we have to look at security. We have to achieve energy independence for our economy. Certainly we will feel much more comfortable if we are less reliant on importing what we use. Oil and fossil fuels produce about 85 percent of the energy used in the United States. As I said, if you include hydro, then renewables get up to about 7 percent, but it is still a relatively small amount. There is more we can do about that.

We have needed a policy. I come from a State that is sort of a foundation for much of the energy we use, particularly fossil fuels, gas and coal. Wyoming is a place where there is a great deal of that. We are third in the Nation in coal reserves. We provide 14 percent of U.S. coal. We rank seventh in oil production. We have reserves as well for oil and gas. So we have to do some things a little differently than we have.

For instance, coal is our largest resource of fossil fuel. If we are going to use it increasingly, as I think we should, particularly for the generation of electricity, then we need to continue to work to make it clean. We need to

have clean air. We need to have clear skies. We can produce cleaner-burning coal or in some instances we are looking at ways where perhaps you take coal and produce hydrogen. That makes it a little easier to transport. It makes it cleaner. Those are things we have to look forward to, and that we can do.

Regarding the carbon that escapes into the air, we are looking at ways of carbon sequestration, putting it back in the ground. We can do that. But we have to have more experiments; we have to have more research. We have to have goals as to where we are going.

In terms of infrastructure, I mentioned if you are going to move electricity, you have to have transmission. I understand that often transmission is not what people like to have in their backyards. Nevertheless, it has to be there. We had a good example of the problems with that in California a couple of years ago, where you knew the demand was there, the supply was somewhere else, and you had to get it to the market.

As I mentioned, our attempt last year to move into some of these areas did not succeed. We did not go through the process as we have this year. We have had hearings. We have had committees. I thank Senator DOMENICI for keeping us on the right track to do that.

So what kind of policy? We need to have some fuel diversity. We need to have different kinds of fuel. We are looking at hydrogen; I suppose we are looking at solar; we are looking at wind power. Many of those are available but, frankly, they are not economical at this time. We have to do that. We have to strike a balance, as we move forward, with the environment.

So there is much that can in fact be done. In this energy policy we will be considering, we have a title on coal. That is mostly to do some experiments on how that can be used cleaner or how it can be transformed. We are going to do something with Indian energy so the reservations can produce more energy than they have in the past.

Some people kind of freeze up when you talk about nuclear energy. The fact of the matter is, in some States, 30 percent of their electricity currently is generated by nuclear. It is probably the cleanest fuel we have. We have to work on the storage of the waste from nuclear, of course.

We have great opportunities to do some things with renewable energy. I think we need to be a little careful in setting mandates that we are going to be at a certain place at a certain time because that can turn out to be very expensive and difficult.

Regarding fuel efficiency, we can work on that in cars or whatever, and make them much more efficient than we have now.

I mentioned hydrogen. The President indicated he thinks hydrogen is one of our best opportunities for a movement