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Senate

The Senate met at 10:04 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GORDON H. SMITH, a Senator from the State of Oregon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God our shield, the giver of victory and honor, shine on us with Your kindness and bring us the rich harvest of joy. Lord, through many dangers You have brought us and we would not be guilty of ingratitude. Thank You for the catastrophes that haven't happened, for the unseen angels who have guarded our land and those we love. Help us to remember that all efforts to defend ourselves will fail without Your sovereign will and loving providence. May we not place our trust only in our ingenuity and courage, but instead lean on You, the Lord our God.

Today guide us with Your gentle spirit and lead us to right paths. Bless our lawmakers. May they trust You completely and permit You to clear the road ahead. Train them in Your school of humility so they will walk safely and never stumble. Give them the wisdom to obey Your teachings so they will live long and prosper.

We pray this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GORDON H. SMITH 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. STEVENS).

The assistant clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable GORDON H. SMITH, a Senator from the State of Oregon, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will be in a period for morning business to accommodate several Members who have statements to make. I do not anticipate a long session today, and once we complete our business, we will adjourn until Monday. As we announced last night, no rollcall votes will occur during today's session of the Senate.

As a reminder to Senators, on Monday we will begin consideration of the intelligence reform bill. No rollcall votes will occur on Monday. However, we anticipate that amendments will be offered and debated during Monday's session. Any votes ordered with respect to those amendments will occur Tuesday morning. Therefore, Senators can expect the next vote or votes to occur sometime Tuesday morning. As always, we will notify our colleagues as any votes are ordered.

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, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have two Senators on our side who wish to speak: Senator WYDEN for 10 minutes and Senator DORGAN. On behalf of Senator DORGAN, I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to speak for up to 40 minutes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have at least one Senator who would like to speak on this side who should be here shortly.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRADE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I was intending to speak earlier this week on the subject of trade, but because of the Senate schedule I decided to wait until today, when we don't have Senate business that would require votes.

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



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Before I get to the subject of trade, I first want to mention that this morning in the Congressional Daily, there is a lead story that says:

Growing GOP resistance might doom farm money in homeland funding bill.

It says here that House Republican leaders are digging in against a package of drought assistance that Senators added to the Homeland Security appropriations bill.

The House Republican leaders say that the drought amendment doesn't have a head of steam.

I am wondering how is it these leaders seem to think that spending is very important when it comes to funding the reconstruction of Iraq—which ran through here like a big old truck in fifth gear—but when it comes to spending here at home to help people, in this case helping family farmers through a real tough time, they say we don't know that we can do that. They are going to dig in our heels.

The Senate passed disaster relief for farmers. We also supported disaster relief for the victims of hurricanes. I have never in all the time I have been in Congress opposed disaster relief for those who have been victims. It seems to me, whether it is the fury of a hurricane that hits your area or drought or some other act of nature or God, when people are victimized, the rest of this country will extend its hands and say, you are not alone, we want to help. And we have always done that.

For those poor folks in Florida and the rest of the Southeast who have been hit by hurricane after hurricane, we have a responsibility to help them and we did and we will. We will do more. But it is also the case, for example in my State, where torrential rains meant that 1.7 million acres of ground couldn't even be planted and family farmers who rely on that planting to make a living will lose their opportunity and perhaps lose their farm if they don't get help. In August there was a freeze, and that freeze dramatically injured crops. And there was a drought in the southeast part of my State, where between January and July they received 2.2 inches of moisture in 6 months, and they too need some hope.

So when we pass disaster assistance, whether it is for the hurricane victims or for those in agricultural areas that suffer weather-related disasters, and then we hear that there is opposition to this by the GOP in the House of Representatives, I ask myself this: Why is it that they are so anxious to help everybody except the people in this country?

I offered an amendment last year on the floor of the Senate to strip about \$20 billion out of the bill for Iraq reconstruction which the President sent to us. That was the single largest cut in spending proposed on the floor of the U.S. Senate last year. Why did I offer that amendment? Because the President said, let's spend this money for reconstructing Iraq, when, in fact, Iraq has plenty of money to reconstruct

itself. Iraq has the second largest reserves of oil in the world. It is perfectly capable, especially with oil prices where they are. Iraq is now pumping slightly less than 3 million barrels a day—about 2.5 million. But they clearly have the capability to pump oil and sell the oil and raise the money to reconstruct themselves.

Instead, what we have is a roads program in Iraq paid for by the American people; we have an education program in Iraq paid for by American taxpayers; we have a jobs program in Iraq paid for by American taxpayers; we have a health care program for Iraq paid for by American taxpayers. You name it, We have all of these programs in Iraq paid for by us, the American taxpayers. The supporters of that bill were rushing to get that through the Congress and couldn't get it through quickly enough.

Now when some folks in this country are hurting and we pass a disaster relief bill to say, you are not alone, we want to give you some help, we have the GOP leaders in the House saying, you can't do that. Why not? That is investing here at home, at least. You were so quick to rush \$20 billion to Iraq to reconstruct Iraq; how about returning some money to help those family farmers who have suffered weather-related disasters?

This isn't over. There is going to be a big fight. If that is the attitude of other side, we are going to have a big fight about this because we owe it to those producers across the country who live on the land, who go to the fields in the morning alone to plow with nothing but hope that somehow things will work out. When they have weather-related disasters, they too need some help. They too deserve our help. So this is going to be a big fight.

We are not going to sit idly by and have GOP leaders in the House say that this isn't going to happen. It is going to happen one way or the other. We are going to make this happen. If we can spend nearly \$20 billion on reconstruction in Iraq, this country can surely open up its pocketbook and provide some much needed help for family farmers in a significant part of this country who have suffered weather-related disasters. That is a fact.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wanted to come to the Senate floor to speak about international trade, a subject about which I've spoken many times before.

I have just finished reading a book by Lou Dobbs. It is a quite remarkable book. And I wanted to share some of its observations with my colleagues.

At the outset, let me say that Lou Dobbs describes himself in this book as a lifelong Republican. This issue of trade is not the ideas of one political party or the other; the book is about a failed trade strategy which undermines the strength of this country by shifting

American jobs overseas. The title of his book is "Exporting America: Why Corporate Greed is Shipping American Jobs Overseas."

Lou Dobbs has been vilified for writing this book. But it is a rare and wonderful book. I am not in the business of selling anybody's books, but to those who are interested in this issue of what is happening to American jobs, who are interested in what is happening with our trade strategy, this is a good book to read.

We have lost nearly 2 million private sector jobs in this President's term, a fair amount of it to outsourcing. The outsourcing issue is one we need to explore in some depth.

I offered an amendment on the Senate floor not long ago. It says, let us eliminate out of our tax system incentives for American companies to shift their jobs overseas. If companies decide to ship jobs overseas, we ought not give them a tax break. That makes no sense at all.

Now, on page 19 of this book, Mr. Dobbs writes:

... American multinational companies that are outsourcing and offshoring are also essentially firing their customers. India can provide our software; China can provide our toys; Sri Lanka can make our clothes; Japan can make our cars. But at some point we have to ask, what will we export? At what will the Americans work? And for what kind of wages? No one I've asked in government, academia, or even the private sector has been answering those questions.

On page 31, Mr. Dobbs says:

Big business is saying that all we need to do to become the most competitive nation on Earth is to cut wages, throw out our environmental, worker safety, investor protection, product liability, and consumer laws, and eliminate corporate tax obligations altogether—and while we're at it, let's repeal those unfriendly antitrust laws. There's no doubt the result would be sharply lower wages and higher profits, but the result would also be a plummeting standard of living and the shattering of the American dream.

For writing a book that expresses a radical thought that we ought to be standing up for American jobs and try to find ways to stop shipping American jobs overseas, Mr. Dobbs has been wildly vilified.

The executive director of the Business Roundtable says this of Mr. Dobbs:

It's as if whatever made Linda Blair's head spin around in *The Exorcist* had invaded the body of Lou Dobbs and left him with the brain of Dennis Kucinich.

That's from John Castellani, executive director of the Business Roundtable. It is such a colorful quote. But it isn't even original. Daniel Henninger of the Wall Street Journal had written those same words about Lou Dobbs just 2 months earlier.

Let me share a few other of Mr. Dobbs' observations. One of the points he makes, which I have also made on the floor of the Senate often, is that the actual rules of trade are now being set by corporations. They have no allegiance to nations, much less individual communities or towns. They certainly