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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of our destinies, help our spirits to be attuned to the graciousness of this season. Keep us from emotions that thwart Your purposes and fill us with Your measureless love. Lord, the legislative process often involves disagreements at deep levels, but deliver our lawmakers from disagreeable spirits. In respect for and appreciation of those who differ, help our Senators, in patience, to find the way of truth in love.

As we celebrate Chanukah, "festival of lights," and Christmas, the birth of Christ, let the full meaning of these celebrations reach us. As You caused 1 day's supply of consecrated oil to keep lamps burning for 8 days in the rededication of the temple desecrated by Emperor Antiochus, make the light of Your knowledge glow on Capitol Hill and let the glorious message of Christmas and peace on Earth, good will toward all guide our deliberations.

We pray in the Name of He who promises salvation to all. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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 read a communication to the Senate.

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 4, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that whatever time the distinguished Republican leader and I take today not be used against the morning business hour.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will conduct morning business for an hour with Republicans controlling the first half, the majority controlling the final portion. Following this period of morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the Peru trade bill. The limit on debate this morning will be about 90 minutes. Once this time is used, the Senate will recess until 2:15 this afternoon, and at that time there will be a vote on passage of the Peru trade bill.

SENATOR TRENT LOTT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, during my time in public office, I have had the opportunity to serve with many good men and women. During my time serving in Congress, I have had the opportunity to make a friendship with TRENT LOTT.

Senator Daschle gave me the freedom, during the 6 years I was assistant leader and he was the leader, to spend all my time on the Senate floor, and I did that. Senator Daschle did other things, but he trusted me. I hope I did the right thing—I sure tried to do that all the time I worked with him—but I lived on the floor of the Senate.

During much of that time TRENT LOTT was the Republican leader, and we worked together over those years, I think, in a way that speaks well of our country. We made "deals." Legislation is the art of compromise, consensus building. Even though TRENT LOTT is certainly a true conservative, we were able, in his pragmatic fashion, to work things out.

TRENT has an interesting background. He was born in Mississippi. His family settled in a place called Pascagoula. His father was a pipefitter. His mother taught school. She was an elementary school teacher. The public school that Senator LOTT attended now bears his name. He received a degree from the University of Mississippi and also got his law degree from the same institution. That is a wonderful community, Oxford, MS. I have had an opportunity to spend a little bit of time there. There is a beautiful community square. It is like I envision the South as it used to be.

He married a beautiful woman, Tricia—Tricia Thompson Lott. They were college sweethearts. My wife, who is a shy woman—always has been—has worked with Tricia on a number of different issues and has been so enamored of her, with what a wonderful woman Tricia is. She is a hard worker. Whenever projects are involved, she does more than her share.

They have two children, Chet and Tyler. They have four grandchildren.

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



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TRENT has been in Congress 34 years. He is the only person in the history of this country who has served as both the House and the Senate whip. He has been a champion for Mississippi, as we all know, but he has also been an important instrument in the Senate accomplishing what it has during the time he was here. I am disappointed that Senator LOTT is going to be leaving the Senate, and I will miss him. I have been impressed with his ability to get things done. Other than John Breaux and TRENT LOTT, there are no two people able to accomplish as much as they did. John Breaux was a dealmaker, and the place he always went, as a Democrat, to start his deal, was with TRENT LOTT. They developed a friendship that lasts to this day. But as a result of their ability to work together on different sides of the aisle, we were able to accomplish a great deal. During the Clinton years, much of what Senator Breaux was able to accomplish for President Clinton was as a result of his relationship with Senator LOTT.

There is no need for me to dwell on my friendship with Senator LOTT other than to say he is my friend, I wish him well, and certainly I wish Tricia and TRENT and their family the very best. They deserve it.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we will, indeed, be saying goodbye to our friend and colleague, TRENT LOTT, over the next few weeks. Senator REID and I will work out a time certain for tributes to Senator LOTT and his extraordinary career sometime between now and the end of this session.

I ask unanimous consent that the Republican time in the morning business coming up be divided equally between Senators BOND, KYL, and CORNYN, in that order.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act represents new opportunities. It is an opportunity to strengthen America's economic growth and it is an opportunity to forge a stronger relationship with a key ally in an important region of the world.

We already know that trade agreements with countries help grow this economy through increased exports, which translate to more new jobs for many American workers. They also create lower prices and more choices for the consumer.

This bill will do all of that by leveling the playing field for American exporters and producers. As recently as

2006, 98 percent of Peruvian exports to America entered this country duty-free. But because of high tariffs, American exporters have not had anywhere near equivalent access to Peru's markets.

When this agreement enters into force, 80 percent of American consumer and industrial exports to Peru will be duty-free immediately. That is a tremendous benefit to thousands of American businesses, and millions of American workers.

For my home State of Kentucky, this bill will do a lot of good as well. Exports to world markets mean a lot to my State—Kentucky's export shipments of merchandise in 2006 accounted for \$17.2 billion, including \$16.3 million worth of goods to Peru. Almost 16 percent of Kentucky manufacturing workers depend on exports for their jobs.

New markets for Kentucky's transportation equipment manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, and machinery manufacturers will open up because of this bill, as will markets for Kentucky's many agricultural products.

By way of a comparison, 3 years after Congress approved a similar trade deal with Singapore, Kentucky exports to Singapore have grown 68 percent. Kentucky and America can reap similar rewards again in a new, more fruitful partnership with Peru by passing this bill.

Peru stands to gain as well. Greater ties to America can only help strengthen security and stability in that country, a key ally in the Western Hemisphere.

It is critical for America to remain engaged in that part of the world, and it is vitally important for us to build strong ties with countries that have made a commitment to freedom and democracy. Peru is just such an ally.

I thank my good friend, the senior Senator from Iowa, for his important work on this bill. Thanks to Senator GRASSLEY, we are soon about to vote on final passage.

I also want to echo his concerns about the current state of our trade policy. Earlier this year, Democrats and Republicans came to an agreement on trade—in return for concessions on matters such as overseas labor issues, House Democrats would move several free trade agreements.

So far, today's Peru agreement is all we have. We haven't seen any positive movement on free trade agreements with Colombia or Panama. Let me just say with regard to Colombia, it is our most important ally in South America. It is embarrassing that we have not approved the free trade agreement with Colombia. Once the issue of beef is addressed with respect to South Korea, I hope we can see that agreement move along as well.

I am disappointed the other Chamber hasn't been able to pass these agreements more quickly. We know they will strengthen our economy and we know they will strengthen our bonds with some very important allies.

Again, going back to Colombia in particular, it has been making great strides to combat the drug trade that ravages so much of that country, and has done much to cut down on the flow of illegal drugs to the United States. Why can't we move faster and show good faith with this ally?

I hope the successful vote for passage we are about to have will pave the way for more in the very near future. These trade agreements are good for the American people, and good for our allies around the world, and we ought to enact them soon. I yield the floor.

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 be a period for morning business of 60 minutes, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees and with Senators permitted to speak for 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the final 30 minutes.

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

DOING THE SENATE'S WORK

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank the Chair, and I thank our minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, for outlining the importance of the Peru Free Trade Agreement and the other trade agreements. We have 3 short weeks to get to work and do the work we have not done so far this year. I wanted to address three aspects of it.

First, for the intelligence community, we must act, and we must act now, to assure that the community has the ability and the tools they need to fight terrorists.

Over the last 30 years, the world has experienced a technological revolution, and our laws governing terrorist surveillance have not kept pace. The old 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that I will refer to as FISA was drafted to deal specifically with the technology in use at the time. This spring, a court ruled that because of the change in technology, the old FISA law severely limited our ability to collect intelligence. Essentially, it made us deaf to collection of vitally needed information.

Following that ruling, the Director of National Intelligence, Admiral McConnell, told Congress the United States was unable to conduct the critical surveillance of foreign terrorists planning to conduct attacks inside our country because of the outdated law. It not only affected our ability to protect the United States, but it also threatened the safety and lives of our troops abroad.