



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1995

No. 187

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 1995, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1995

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Gracious God, we return to our work today after the Thanksgiving holiday with a glow of gratitude. Thanksgiving is the memory of the heart. It gives us an opportunity to count our manifold blessings as individuals and as a nation and humbly thank You for all You have done for us. As we have looked back over the past with gratitude, and then looked up to You with praise, now we are ready to look forward with hope.

We press on with renewed hope for the debate over crucial issues before us. We know that if we trust You and proceed with honest exchange and civility, You will help us succeed together.

Make us so secure in Your love that our egos will not get in the way; grant us Your power so we will not need to manipulate in a power struggle; free us from secondary loyalties so we can focus as our primary concern the future of our Nation. Thank You for the strength and vitality that surges within us when we reaffirm that living each day as if it were our only day makes for a total life lived at full potential. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning

business not to extend beyond the hour of 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 10 minutes each.

Mr. FRIST addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE FARM BILL

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I want to visit today about the subject of NAFTA, the North American Free-Trade Agreement, and some legislation introduced in the Senate on that subject. Before I do that, I would like to make a quick point about the so-called farm bill.

It is my hope that in the week ahead and in the next several weeks, as the Congress deals with the reconciliation bill, the leaders of both sides and the President will insist that the farm bill be taken out of the reconciliation bill. It is, in my judgment, unfair to farmers to have thrown the farm bill into the reconciliation bill. It needs to be considered on its own, its own merits, with hearings, and in a thoughtful way. The decision about what kind of a long-

term farm program this country has is not a decision that ought to be made on the spur of the moment by throwing something into the reconciliation bill.

I do hope in the next week or so, as we negotiate through a reconciliation bill, that all sides will agree that if they have to get budget savings from the agricultural side, that is fine, but the farm bill ought to be separated out, debated separately, and considered on its own merits.

NORTH AMERICAN FREE-TRADE AGREEMENT [NAFTA]

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, a week ago Friday, just prior to the recess, I introduced in the Senate, along with the cosponsors, Senator BYRD from West Virginia, Senator CAMPBELL from Colorado, and Senator HEFLIN from Alabama, a piece of legislation called the NAFTA Accountability Act. I want to talk briefly about that this morning. I understand that the Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, will come to the floor and also provide some discussion about it.

Not many people know what NAFTA is. It is an acronym that describes the North American Free-Trade Agreement. Not many people know much about it or much about how it affects them, their lives, or their jobs. But it is a significant piece of trade legislation that had its 2-year anniversary, or second birthday, about a week or so ago.

It is time for the Congress, when you pass legislation like NAFTA, to stop and assess its impact and decide whether it did what it was advertised to do.

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



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