



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1995

No. 196

## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

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

Almighty God, You have all authority in heaven and on Earth. You are Sovereign Lord of our lives and our Nation. We submit to Your authority. We seek to serve You together here in this Senate Chamber and in the offices that work to help make our deliberations run smoothly. We commit to You all that we do and say this day. Make it a productive day. Give us positive attitudes that exude hope. In each difficult impasse, help us seek Your guidance. Draw us closer to You in whose presence we rediscover that, in spite of differences in particulars, we are here to serve You and our beloved Nation together. In our Lord's name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Arizona is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader I would like to make the following announcement: Today there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 1 p.m. At 1 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 31, the constitutional amendment regarding the desecration of the U.S. flag.

Under the provisions of the consent agreement reached on Friday, amendments will be offered and debated today, however no rollcall votes will occur during today's session. Any votes ordered on the amendments will be stacked to begin at 2:15, Tuesday afternoon.

### 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 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The distinguished Senator from Nevada is recognized.

### THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an issue that is important to the security of this Nation and certainly to the world community, and that is the proliferation of chemical weapons.

The widespread use of chemical weapons in world war provided the world with its first glimpse of these agents' destructive powers. I am certain many of us here in the Senate have known someone who served in the First World War who returned to the United States bearing permanent scars of his exposure to terrible chemicals such as phosgene and mustard gas. If we do not know someone, we have heard of people who were debilitated as a result of these agents.

I was with Vice President GORE recently when he talked about his uncle, his father's brother, who returned from the First World War injured as a result of chemical weapons. The Vice President indicated how his uncle coughed and suffered from this condition until he died.

Thousands of American veterans suffered for years from illnesses, like the Vice President's uncle, because they were exposed to gas. Thousands more never came home, having died as a result of this. Mr. President, 80 percent of the gas fatalities in World War I were caused by phosgene. This sub-

stance damages the lungs, causing a deadly accumulation of fluid quickly and it leads to death. Those who do not die from this gas may cough and cough for the rest of their lives.

There were stories in the First World War of people who suffered, but one of the most famous poems of that conflict was written about poisonous gas, entitled "Dulce Et Decorum Est." I will not read it all, but I will read enough to get the point across.

This poem starts by describing marches and worried soldiers. The poet begins the second paragraph by saying:

Gas! Gas! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling,  
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;  
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling  
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime . . .  
Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,  
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.  
In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,  
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams you too could pace  
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,  
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,  
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;  
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood  
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,  
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud  
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, . . .

Mr. President, that describes quite well what poisonous gas does to a human being. But it did not end in World War I. Iran and Iraq have poisonous gas. In the 1980's, Iraq used poisonous gas weapons against its enemy Iran in the Iran-Iraq war, and launched a campaign of terror with chemical weapons against its own population, the Kurds, in their own country.

In the words of a Kurdish refugee who survived the bombing of his village by an Iraqi aircraft, he said:

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



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