



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1996

No. 33

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.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 Father, we thank You for all of our faculties. But today, we praise You especially for the gift of hearing. Help us never to take for granted the amazing process by which sounds are registered on our eardrums, and carried through the audio nerve to our cerebral cortex to be translated into thoughts of recognition, comprehension, and response. Through this wondrous gift we can hear the spring songs of robins returned, majestic music of a sonata, loved one's words of love and hope, and the truths of Your own Word in the Bible as they are read or proclaimed from across the reaches of time. But most importantly, You have given us listening hearts to hear what You have to say to us through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Today, we dedicate our physical and spiritual hearing systems to listen more attentively to You and to each other. Forgive us when we are so occupied with what we want to say that we do not listen. Often we do not hear each other because we have prejudged what he or she will say. And there are times when we are so intent on doing our own will without consulting You and listening to Your whisper in our souls. We say with Samuel, "Speak Lord, Your servant is listening." In the name of Him who taught us both to listen and to pray. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, except for the following: Senator FEINSTEIN of California for 15 minutes.

At the hour of 10 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the continuing resolution and the pending amendment offered by Senator DASCHLE. Under the previous order, at 2:15 p.m. today, there will be two consecutive rollall votes. The first will be on invoking cloture on the D.C. appropriations conference report, to be followed by a vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the Whitewater extension resolution. Following those votes, the Senate will resume consideration of the continuing resolution. Therefore, additional votes are expected throughout the day. Also, the Senate will recess from the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

It is still hoped we can reach agreement for consideration of the small regulatory relief bill during the session today. We will make an effort to proceed on that legislation. We hope we can consider it before the week is out. It has broad bipartisan support. I believe it was reported unanimously from the Small Business Committee. I have had indications from Senators on both sides of the aisle that they would like to see this legislation moved, although there is some resistance to it, still holding out hope we can move on the broader regulatory reform. That would be ideal. But I still do not see much real hope that can be accomplished, so I would not want us to further hold up good legislation on which we do have agreement. So we will be seeking to move that legislation before the week is out.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be heard as in morning business for the next 5 minutes.

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

COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I was shocked last week to read a headline in one of the local publications that the President was threatening to shut down the Government again. That was the headline: "Clinton Threatens Government Shutdown."

It shocked me because I knew that, at that very time, the Senate Appropriations Committee was working on this omnibus appropriations bill, and it was reported out of committee by a broad bipartisan vote with only two Senators voting against the action by the Appropriations Committee.

This legislation does include funds for the rest of the year for the five appropriations bills that have not yet been signed into law, two of which have not yet passed the Senate. Those two are the Labor-HHS-Education bill and the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriations bill, which is being held up because some Members do not want poor students in the District of Columbia to have access to vouchers. The omnibus bill also includes three other appropriations bills that have been vetoed by the President.

So there are five of them. Obviously, everybody from the District of Columbia to the Interior Department would like to get this process completed.

In the Appropriations Committee, they also included emergency funds for the disasters that we have had in the past few months across this country, and they included funds for the United States peacekeeping effort in Bosnia. All in all, the bill goes more than halfway to meet the requests by the President for additional funds. Keep in mind, the President continues to ask for more money. That is what is at

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



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stake here: He wants more money to spend—always more money to spend. While we are trying to impose some reasonable restraints on the spending of the Federal Government in the non-defense discretionary areas, he continues to ask for more money, \$8 billion more than was included in our earlier legislation. But this omnibus appropriation includes a \$4.7 billion move toward what the President has asked for, in the form of a contingency fund that the President could spend after agreement is reached for countervailing savings in entitlement programs. More than half a loaf in any process is a major concession. And yet, we are being told that is still not good enough.

This legislation includes approximately \$166 billion for these five bills and the nine departments that are covered by the bill. I repeat, \$166 billion. And yet, for an additional \$3 billion, the President says he will veto the whole thing. I do not think that makes sense. When the Senate is offering \$166 billion, is the President really going to veto this legislation and shut down the Government to force us up to \$169 billion?

I do not think that is the way to begin this process. Let us keep the rhetoric cool. Let us go forward with this bill. Let us consider the amendments that will be offered, and I am sure there will be a few—I hope only a few, not many. We can, hopefully, get it completed today, and it will go to conference between the House and the Senate.

The House has added, I believe, \$3.3 billion in additional funds; the Senate has added \$4.7 billion. The administration will be involved, and in the conference that will ensue, hopefully an agreement can be reached quickly on the conference report. That way we can send this legislation down to the President, and he can sign it before the deadline of Friday midnight. Then the affected departments and agencies can know what they can count on for the rest of this year.

Or, if we run out of time or if difficulties are encountered, we will still have the option of passing a short-term continuing resolution, merely continuing current law but with reduced funding. Those options are out there. We should do our job, and we should do it without the threat or the intimation that, if we do not do it just the way one side or the other wants it, then there is going to be another veto fracas.

I remind my colleagues that the veto threat came from the President last week, and it came because he wants \$3 billion more added to a \$166 billion bill. I do not think that makes good fiscal sense, and I hope we will take calm and deliberative action to complete this legislation either today or as soon as possible tomorrow.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business until 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with one exception: Senator FEINSTEIN will be recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

THE UNITED STATES-SAUDI ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, the economic and security partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia is vital to both nations. Strong business ties are a key element of this partnership.

Saudi Arabia is America's leading supplier of oil, while American technology is important to the efficient development of Saudi oil reserves. America's substantial imports are offset by more than \$6 billion dollars' worth of exports to Saudi Arabia each year, principally of manufactured goods. American firms have played an important role in the development of Saudi Arabia's modern defense, transportation, and communications infrastructure. My own home State of Connecticut enjoys a healthy trade relationship with Saudi Arabia, particularly in the area of aircraft engines and spare parts. When I visited Saudi Arabia a few years ago, I experienced firsthand the hospitality and cooperation which characterizes business as well as political dealings between Americans and their Saudi partners.

A recent special edition of *Middle East Insight* was devoted to the six decades of business partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia. I would like to share with my colleagues an article by Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States. As most of my colleagues know, Prince Bandar has been a friend of the United States for a long time. He has represented Saudi Arabia with dignity, energy, and intelligence. And he has contributed to a better understanding of the United States in Saudi Arabia. I am pleased to provide this short article for my colleagues and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From *Middle East Insight*]

PARTNERS IN COMMERCE

(By H.R.H. Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz)

Earlier this year, we marked the fiftieth anniversary of the historic meeting between King Abdulaziz Al-Saud and President

Franklin D. Roosevelt aboard the USS Quincy on the Great Bitter Lake. We celebrated this as the occasion that launched the special relationship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America. That meeting, however did not occur in a vacuum. More than a decade before, King Abdulaziz had signed the first oil concession with an American oil company. The ensuing activities, culminating with the discovery of oil in commercial quantities in 1938, began to lay the foundation of friendship and cooperation that made the historic meeting between the two great leaders possible.

The Saudi-American relationship began with commerce and, more than six decades later, commerce remains one of the binding forces that tie our two countries together. American companies were there in the beginning, helping to build not only the world's largest oil industry, but the infrastructure, support systems, and educational institutions that go with it.

Over the years, the business and economic relationship between our two countries has broadened and strengthened in parallel with the political friendship. The United States has been Saudi Arabia's number one trade and investment partner for most of the past forty years. Even in more trying times, American business has stayed true to this partnership. More recently, even at personal risk, American companies and their employees stood together with us as we faced a grave challenge from Iraq during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In a sense, that effort was the largest of many joint ventures between our two countries. The successful cooperation of our soldiers was in no small part made possible by the decades of friendship that preceded it.

Modernization requires adaptation. With determination, commitment, and confidence in our ways, Saudi Arabia has taken control of its own destiny and adapted to the requirements of a 21st century economy. We have reduced our reliance on oil by diversifying into new industries that are driven by the private sector. American companies have been there, as they were at the beginning, to provide the technology and know-how to develop the industries of the future. They have found the Kingdom to be a friendly, stable, and profitable place to do business.

Anyone who doubts the strength of the Saudi-American business partnership has only to look at the more than \$15 billion in two-way trade between the two countries. This year alone, more than \$12 billion in major airline, telecommunications, and power projects have been awarded to American companies, tens of thousands of Americans live and work in the Kingdom through hundreds of joint ventures; and tens of thousands of Saudis have lived, worked, and studied in the United States, and have brought back with them the best that America has to offer, while maintaining a steadfast allegiance to their own land, religion, and values.

The Saudi-American business partnership has deep roots and is sure to remain a vital element in the overall US-Saudi relationship. Two people who work so closely together toward the common goals of security, prosperity, and economic advancement will surely remain friends, and partners, far into the future. In celebrating this friendship, remember its beginnings in our shared commitment to open markets, free enterprise, and the private pursuit of opportunity to the benefit of both our peoples.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank