



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1996

No. 129

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:

The prophet Isaiah asked some very penetrating questions. The answers lead us to an authentic attitude for profound prayer:

"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?"—Isaiah 40:12-14.

Almighty God, these questions expose the shallowness of our understanding of prayer. So often we come to You in prayer as if it were our responsibility to brief You on world affairs or current national problems. Or we come to prayer with our shopping list of needs as if You did not know all about us. And then there are times we try to get You to bless our plans about which we never consulted You.

Father, You created prayer for us to be with You, to know You, to have our characters emulate Your character, and, most of all, to be filled with Your spirit. So we humble ourselves. Instead of telling You what to do, we open ourselves completely to receive Your marching orders and to follow You. In the name of the One who taught us to pray, "Not my will but Yours be done." Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Good morning, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning, there will be a period of morning business until the hour of 11 a.m., and the first 45 minutes of morning business will be under the control of Senator HUTCHISON, and the second 45 minutes will be under the control of Senator DASCHLE, or his designee.

Following morning business at 11 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of S. 994, the FAA reauthorization bill. A unanimous-consent agreement limiting amendments to that bill was reached last night. Also under the order, all amendments listed must be filed at the desk by 11 a.m. this morning. It is hoped that most of those amendments can be agreed to or not be offered at all.

Upon disposition of the FAA bill, the Senate will be asked to turn to the consideration of the conference report to accompany the Transportation appropriations bill, if available, or the Magnuson fisheries bill under a previous consent agreement. In any case, there will probably be rollcall votes throughout the day, and Senators should expect those votes.

I am pleased with the progress that has been made on the FAA reauthorization bill. The Senator from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, and the Senator from Kentucky, Senator FORD, have been working very hard on this. We need to get this done. In fact, we need to get it completed and we need to do it quickly so we can move on to other bills we need to get done. If we don't get this FAA reauthorization bill completed,

there will be a prohibition at the end of the year on use of the airport trust fund. So we absolutely have to get it done.

Also, I would like to make sure Senators are aware that we are considering moving to other conference reports when they are available. We are also considering taking up, perhaps on tomorrow and Thursday, the maritime legislation from the Commerce Committee that will be managed by the Senator from Alaska, Senator STEVENS, and we are now beginning to see if we can clear the way on both sides of the aisle to take up the pipeline safety legislation, something, once again, we really need to do. Certainly, in America, we should make sure we have a program and plan for our pipelines being safe.

Until we see if we can work out some understanding that we can do our appropriations bills without a lot of delay or extraneous amendments, we will move forward on making progress on these other bills, these other issues. I had hoped we could get all of the appropriations bills done in regular order, but that has not been the case on the last two bills. Rather than just a squabble back and forth, I thought we could go on and do the people's business in other areas. I think we can do a lot of good work in that area over the next 3 or 4 days.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for morning business until the hour of 11 a.m., with the first 45 minutes under the control of the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the second 45 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, or his designee.

Mrs. HUTCHISON addressed the Chair.

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



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

S10729

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, we are now in morning business, according to the order, and I control 45 minutes of time.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND INTERNATIONAL MILITARY COMMITMENTS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, the reason that I asked for the time this morning is I think we have a very crucial decision that is being made right now in our Nation's Capital, and that is how much we are going to fund the defense of our country. In fact, Congress is in a dispute with the President, as we speak, about how much we should spend to defend our Nation.

I find it ironic, if not sad, that as 3,500 of our American troops are on their way to Kuwait right this minute that the President would be threatening to veto the Defense appropriations bill if \$2 to \$3 billion is not cut from that bill.

Our troops are on their way, possibly for a conflict. We hope not. But, as you know, as the distinguished Presiding Officer is the chairman of the Armed Services Committee and the President pro tempore of the Senate, this is not the time to let down our defenses. This is not the time to say that we should be shifting valuable weapons systems for the protection of our troops and for their ability to protect the interests of the United States into unnamed other programs—social programs, perhaps education programs.

I don't know what the President has in mind. But I do know that the President of the United States is today saying he will veto an appropriations bill for the Defense Department at the same time that he is ratcheting up a conflict in the Middle East.

Mr. President, several people would like to speak on this issue. I have more to say, but at this time, I am going to yield to my colleague, the senior Senator from Idaho, LARRY CRAIG.

Mr. CRAIG addressed the Chair.

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

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have comments that will take probably up to about 8 minutes. The Senator from Arizona is with us, and I understand he has a scheduling conflict, so I will be more than happy to yield to him.

Mr. KYL addressed the Chair.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I will be happy to yield to the distinguished Senator from Arizona, who has provided so much leadership in our Nation's defenses, and ask how long, approximately, he would like.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I inform the Senator from Texas, probably about 5 minutes, if that is acceptable.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. That is acceptable. Thank you, and I yield the floor.

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

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, first of all, let me say the Senator from Texas is to be complimented for beginning this very important discussion which I think, frankly, is going to have to go on for some time here until we can get this matter resolved.

It boils down to something very, very simple. On the one hand, you have the administration making substantial international commitments for the deployment and use of American military forces which will cost billions of dollars of money, and, at the same time, you have the administration suggesting that unless the Congress is willing to take money from the defense budget and spend it on other things that the President wants, there is the possibility of a Presidential veto of the defense appropriations bill.

Mr. President, we have been, I think, appropriately discreet here in this body in sharing our views on international policy, especially as it relates to the Middle East and the President's action in Iraq. We passed a resolution here overwhelmingly supporting the action that the administration took and supporting our troops in Iraq. We have not gone out of our way to criticize the President's policy there, even though many of us have grave concerns and questions about where that policy is leading us.

But when it comes to passing the defense authorization and defense appropriations bill, this body has a responsibility to ensure that our military forces have what they need to carry out these commitments. And nobody, Mr. President, more than you, as the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has fought harder over the years to ensure that our troops have what they need.

I remember that after the Persian Gulf war was over and everyone was passing out compliments to Secretary Cheney and to President Bush and to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell, they all pointed out that what won that war was the character and skill of our men and women who were fighting there and the decisions that were made 10 or 12 years before by the Senate, by the House, and by the administrations at that time to begin the research and development of the smart weapons and other weapons that we used in the Persian Gulf war. That is what enabled us to win that war quickly and with a minimum of casualties.

Now we are again engaged in conflict in Iraq, and we are again using those same weapons, and at the same time the President is suggesting that we have to cut the defense budget because he wants to spend more money in other areas. I remind my colleagues that last year we added money back into the defense bill to buy Tomahawk missiles, more than the President requested. He did not request that money. We said, you are going to have to buy more Tomahawk missiles because that is what we are going to need if we have

another conflict in the Middle East. And what happened? We had another challenge from Saddam Hussein, and the President ordered the firing of Tomahawk missiles. I am glad that the Senate disagreed with the President on that last year, added that money in, and we had those Tomahawk missiles ready to go to fight this conflict.

Now we have the same issue again. Are we going to be permitted to properly fund the military forces? What we are suggesting is still far less than the military was provided last year. So this is not an increase over last year's spending. It is less money. It is more money than the President requested, and that is because we have identified some areas in which we think the administration's request was deficient, just as it was with the Tomahawk missiles last year.

Mr. President, it boils down to this. I have a lot of statistics here and might ask for unanimous consent to submit some matters in writing that gets into the specifics, but I know that my other colleagues here wish to add their voices to this concern. So I am just going to make this statement very generally.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this statistical information and related material.

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

[Press release from the House Appropriations Committee]

LIVINGSTON TO CLINTON: NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO FURTHER CUT DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC.—Charging that President Clinton is putting the nation's servicemen and women at risk overseas, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston (R-LA) urged the President to reconsider reports that his Administration is now seeking \$3 billion in additional cuts to the defense bill.

"Further cuts to the defense bill will mean less medical care funding for military personnel, a weakening of the drug war, and an inability to relocate troops in Saudi Arabia. If the President wants \$3 billion more cut from the defense budget, he should present our committee with a list of cuts and we'll be happy to consider them.

The defense conference report added nearly a half billion dollars to the President's request for medical care, which was cut in the Clinton Budget; added \$600 million to the President's request for barracks and base repair; and added \$165 million to the President's request for drug interdiction and counter-drug activities.

"President Clinton claims Congress wants to spend \$10 billion more than he wants, but he won't admit that he asked for \$10 billion less than last year's funding level for defense. This cut comes at a time when our nation's military is preparing for a new round of bombing in Iraq; facing more than \$100 million in costs for troop relocation in Saudi Arabia; and underfunding Bosnia by more than \$200 million to date. It is a bad time to cut defense, yet that's all the Commander-In-Chief offers in relation to negotiations on unfinished appropriations bills," said Livingston.

Even more disconcerting is the fact that the President holds the Defense Appropriations bill hostage to more spending cuts,