



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

No. 106

Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of power, God of love, thank You for bringing us through life's many trials and reminding us that we belong to You. Keep our feet on the right path. Forgive our failure to sometimes see beyond today's challenging events and our unwillingness to trust the unfolding of Your loving providence. Lord, open our eyes that we may see the invisible world of Your unstoppable purposes and catch a new vision of Your glorious design for our world. Guide our Senators. Make them Your agents to bless humankind. And again we ask that You would be a shield for our troops in harm's way. We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TED STEVENS 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the Defense appropriations bill. Last night, we locked in an order of amendments to be offered over the course of the day. Although we have not locked in time agreements on these amendments, we expect to be voting on a couple of them

as early as 11 or 11:30 this morning. The chairman is here and is prepared to work through the remaining amendments to the bill. It is our expectation to complete this bill today or tonight.

As I stated yesterday, and as stated by the chairman as well, if—it is an "if"—we complete the Defense bill today and we are able to begin with the Homeland Security appropriations bill on Monday, there will be no rollcall votes during Friday's session. Again, that is if we complete the bill today. If not, we will go into tomorrow and have rollcall votes tomorrow.

Monday is a no-vote day. However, as has been mentioned on the floor, we would expect Members to be present on Monday to offer amendments to the Homeland Security bill.

As a reminder to all Senators, at 4 p.m. today the Prime Minister of Britain, the Right Honorable Tony Blair, will deliver an address to both Houses of Congress.

Senators have been notified—but I will remind them—that they are asked to gather in the Senate Chamber no later than 3:40 this afternoon in order to proceed to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

As we look ahead to next week, we will continue on the appropriations bills that are available. We will continue to have busy sessions throughout.

I remind Members that the last week prior to the recess will be devoted to completion of the Energy bill. I have been hoping to reach an agreement so that Members will file their amendments on the Energy bill no later than Wednesday of next week. That would enable the chairman and the ranking member to begin to work through the amendments prior to that final week of consideration.

I remind my colleagues that we began consideration of the Energy bill on May 6 of this year. I believe there has been more than adequate time to draft amendments, and therefore I hope

we can set this reasonable filing deadline. I know at this time there are objections on the other side of the aisle. However, I will continue to work with Senator DASCHLE and the assistant Democratic leader in an effort to reach this consent.

I thank all Members. As always, we will notify Senators as votes are scheduled throughout the day.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, Senator DODD has agreed to a time limit. As soon as the Senator has an opportunity to review his amendment, I am sure he will agree to that time limit.

Senator BYRD has an amendment he will offer following that. He said he would not agree to a time on this amendment, but he said he wouldn't take long.

As the leader knows, we have agreed to vote on Senator BYRD's amendment, and then Senator DODD wants a vote on his amendment after we complete the debate.

We have a list of the amendments we are going to offer. Senator BYRD has three. Other Senators have one each.

We should be able to move through this in a reasonable period of time—hopefully before too long. I assume the majority leader will have the Senate in recess from 3:30 until the time the Prime Minister of Britain completes his speech. I hope he follows the model and precedent of the most recent President as far as length is concerned so he doesn't take too much of our time off the floor.

The Senate will bring up the Energy bill. We worked hard on the Energy bill. Senator BINGAMAN and Senator DOMENICI have worked hard. But we have not even spent 2 full weeks on that bill. Last time we had 8 weeks. I

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



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