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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, July 21, 2003)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

For the beauty of the Earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which, from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to You we raise this, our prayer of grateful praise.

We thank You for Your loving providence that sustains us each day. Thank You, also, for the liberty that provides the foundation for our Nation.

Bless our Senators today. May they remember to trust You for guidance and to believe that You will order their steps. Make their lives a source of wisdom, deep as the ocean and fresh as a flowing stream.

We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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 resume consideration of S. 14, the Energy bill. It is our intention this morning to reach an agreement to allow for the disposition of the two pending CAFE amendments.

In addition, the Senate will conduct its third cloture vote on the Owen nomination at 12:15 today. Therefore, Senators should expect the possibility of several votes prior to the party lunches. Members will be notified when the first vote is scheduled.

The Senate will recess, following the cloture vote, until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party lunches, and for the remainder of the day the Senate will resume debate on the Energy bill. The Senate may also resume debate on the Chile and Singapore free-trade agreements. This morning we would like to lock in the agreement for the consideration of those two bills. Therefore, Senators should expect votes throughout the afternoon and into the evening.

THE ENERGY BILL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to very briefly comment on the Energy bill. I did not make a statement on the bill and indeed was a bit disappointed on the progress we made yesterday for lots of extenuating circumstances. I do want to point out my absolute commitment to aggressively addressing the bill this morning and over the course of this week. Today, we do begin our 16th day, our 16th day of consideration on this Energy bill on the Senate floor. Just to point out to my colleagues, 16 days is longer than we spent on any other single bill this year. In fact, it is twice as long as we spent on the Medicare reform bill, the Medicare prescription drug bill. I say that only to encourage my colleagues to come to the floor, offer amendments, allow us to offer the amendments so that we can debate and vote on the amendments that people are at least considering.

Time and time again the statement is made that we spent 7 weeks on this bill last year on the Senate floor. Seven weeks, that was 24 days that we spent last year, and last year the bill

didn't go through committee. It was not marked up. It wasn't debated in committee. It was taken straight to the floor.

Now we have a bill that was marked up, debated in committee, and now we spend 16 days on it. We need to finish this bill this week. We need to stay focused with it and we can't tolerate the sort of delays we have seen to date. We need to aggressively recognize that we have a period of this week and use the time that is available.

The issue of organizing how we do these amendments and sort of getting them done procedurally is what I have been concentrating on, but I think all of us have to step back and recognize the substance of this bill is what is important. It is incumbent upon us as U.S. Senators to address an issue that has been put forth by the President.

An Energy bill has been passed by the House of Representatives, and we have a bill on the Senate floor that we are debating and we must address and finish and complete this week.

A strong energy policy is what Americans want. It is what Americans deserve, a policy that, indeed, balances new production with conservation, with the development of renewable resources, all of which is crucial to strengthening our economy and our national security.

In terms of the economy, we know this bill will have a direct impact on the creation of jobs—not just 100,000 jobs or 300,000 or 400,000 but 500,000 jobs it is predicted this bill will create.

We know what has happened with natural gas prices. We have seen what has happened with those prices just since we have been discussing this bill. Again, it calls upon us to pass this Energy bill which sets out our policy.

While we have addressed issues, not as aggressively as I would like, gas prices have shot up. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has made

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



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the statement that there is no end in sight. To put this in some sort of perspective on a personal level, 80 percent of the Nation's 35,000 laundromats have raised prices in the past year due to high natural gas prices. Folks who have to take their laundry to the corner Sit and Spin are facing, every day, prices that increased over the past several weeks and months and may well increase into the future.

That is why we need to respond and respond expeditiously. If you take it beyond the personal level to the industry level, the U.S. chemical companies are closing plants. They are laying off workers. They are looking to expand their own production, not domestically but expand it abroad, as a result of high prices.

Next year, the United States is expected to import, to bring into this country, approximately \$9 billion more in chemicals than it will export.

American industry is caught between regulations, on the one hand limiting the supply of natural gas, and regulations encouraging its use on the other. The result is rising gas prices with some industries cutting jobs. Again, I want to keep coming back to jobs because it is an Energy bill, an energy security bill, but it is also a jobs bill. We find some of these industries not just cutting jobs but sometimes being priced out altogether. And, of course, consumers are being hit with higher and higher electric bills.

We need to diversify our sources of energy. We must do so in a way that lessens our reliance on foreign sources. So when you summarize and step back, our energy policy should be one that is consistent with our foreign policy; that is, it is independent and it is secure. By increasing America's domestic production of clean coal, of oil and gas, nuclear, ethanol, solar, and other renewable energy sources, we increase not just our energy supply but we increase our national security.

Furthermore, by passing the comprehensive energy package we will be creating jobs; as I mentioned, as many as 500,000 jobs. Indeed, the Alaskan pipeline, for example, will create at least 400,000 jobs alone. The hundreds of millions of dollars that will be invested in research and development of new technologies will not only benefit the environment, which we know will be benefited, but it also will create new jobs in engineering, in math and chemistry, science, physics.

So, in summary, we cannot continue to dither or delay. We need to focus over the next 4 days on this bill, bring amendments to the chairman and ranking member, bring them to the floor for debate so we can vote.

We simply cannot let the behind-the-scenes political maneuvering in any way deny the American people energy that is cleaner, that is more abundant, and, indeed, more secure.

We need to take action this week for the sake of our economy, for our national security, and ultimately, and

what is probably the bottom line, for our fellow Americans who are paying these bills each and every month. It is time to pass an energy policy for the 21st century. I am confident we can do so this week.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting minority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let the RECORD be spread with the fact that every Democrat in the Senate supports an Energy bill. There is not a single Senator who opposes an Energy bill.

I know that the distinguished majority leader has talked about our having been on this for 16 days—and we have been. But many of them have been extremely short days—Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings; a few days here and a few days there.

I think what we have to be concerned about is not how many days we have spent on it but the question is, Is this bill as good as it should be? I think the answer is a glaring no at this stage.

We have been willing to work with the majority to find consensus on a host of issues. There is not a single Senator on the other side of the aisle who I have worked more closely with than the chairman of the Energy Committee, the distinguished senior Senator from New Mexico. Not only have I worked with him on the Energy bill but I have worked with him on the Appropriations Committee. He and I have done energy and water bills for years. I have great respect for him. I know how badly he wants an Energy bill. He tells me once or twice a day. I know how important it is for him to move this bill through the Senate. But we can't move a bill through the Senate that doesn't have debate on important issues such as climate change, CAFE, electricity, renewable portfolio standards, and the tax title.

We on this side of the aisle are concerned about jobs. When we look at the last administration and 8 years, President Clinton created 25 million jobs. This administration and this President—as long as we have kept records where we have lost jobs—lost 3 million jobs in the private sector. I think that says it all.

On the Alaskan pipeline issue, I offered that amendment on the floor. That amendment passed. I am glad it did pass. We support that. It is good for the economy. It is good for the security of this Nation to bring that gas from Alaska. We want to do that.

We talked about Medicare legislation and doing that more quickly. Of course, that was bipartisan legislation. It makes it a little easier.

We have a number of northwestern Senators who are desperate to work out something on the electricity title. They could not get a copy of—it is a major title to this legislation—until late Friday night. Some got it but

most didn't get it until yesterday; then to be asked, as we were yesterday, to go right to the electricity title.

There are three amendments pending. I think without any question we can have a vote on CAFE by 10:45 or 11 o'clock, according to how much time the opposition takes on it. I think we can do that quickly. We have discussed it with Senators LEVIN and STABENOW. Of course, there are others on the majority side who joined with these Senators on another CAFE amendment. That should take a very short period of time—I would say an hour or something like that, I would estimate.

Then we have to figure out some way as to what will be done with the Campbell amendment. Then there is nothing to stop us from going to the electricity title. There will be some debate on that. It is an extremely important issue for us.

As I said, I have the highest respect and regard for my friend from New Mexico, the senior Senator.

I don't see how we can do this bill this week. We are going to try. It is not as if this is some guerrilla attack. We have been saying all along that we need more time than this to complete the bill.

But on this side of the aisle, we recognize the importance of this legislation. We want to do what we can but there are certain issues that require debate and deliberation. We are going to make sure it takes place. If we have to stay in through next week, we have to stay in through next week. But there are issues that are so important to this country that we have to make sure that whatever bill comes out is the best bill we can get.

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 14, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 14) to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Campbell amendment No. 886, to replace "tribal consortia" with "tribal energy resource development organizations."

Durbin amendment No. 1384, to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the system for enhancing automobile fuel efficiency.

Durbin modified amendment No. 1385, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to provide additional tax incentives for enhancing motor vehicle fuel efficiency.

Bond modified amendment No. 1386, to impose additional requirements for improving automobile fuel economy and reducing vehicle emissions.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.