



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2004

No. 10

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2004

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Reverend Clint W. Decker, Clay Center Wesleyan Church, Clay Center, KS.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, holy is Your name. I seek Your blessings on behalf of our Nation and its leaders. May our Senators draw near to You and experience Your unconditional love. May each seek Your divine guidance for the hard decisions they face today.

Grant us all a holy desire to study scripture, pray, and seek Your plan for our lives. In Your unfolding mercy, strengthen marriages, sustain vital relationships, and grant peace to each and every home.

God, bring a spiritual awakening across this land that every citizen of this great country would know Your love and mercy as it transforms their lives, heals their wounds, and creates hope in hungry hearts.

I pray this in the name of Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 2, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALLARD thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. At this juncture, I ask unanimous consent that we extend morning business, with the time equally divided, until 3 p.m. today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. At 3 p.m. the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1072, the highway funding bill. Last week we attempted to reach a consent agreement to begin consideration of the highway bill today. Unfortunately, there was an objection to proceeding; therefore, I filed cloture on the motion to proceed. That cloture vote will occur at 5:45 p.m. today. I hope cloture will be invoked and the Senate will be able to begin consideration of this important bill this evening. This is a major piece of legislation which will not only secure America's infrastructure but also create jobs. There will be a lot of discussion and debate. I anticipate that this bill will take both this week and next week—that is the next 2 weeks—to complete.

Having said that, we need to begin the debate and allow the Senate to work its will on the amendments offered. Several of the committees are continuing their efforts on their respective pieces of this highway bill today and tomorrow, but that should not delay us from beginning to consider this important measure. As I have said, there will be adequate time to consider this bill on the floor, and Members will have the opportunity to offer amendments.

On another subject, last week the Senate passed the pension rate reform bill by a large bipartisan vote of 86 to 9. The vote in the House on their version of the bill was 397 to 2. Now it is time for us to appoint conferees and to go to conference to reconcile the differences. The Senate bill has been passed. The House bill has been passed.

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



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