



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2004

No. 21

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Mount Calvary Holy Church, Washington, DC.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Most gracious and everlasting God, we thank You for this glorious day that You have allowed us to see, and we honor You for Your undying faithfulness toward us.

Help us to continually hold up the light of Your love, and may we be always mindful of our collective duty to serve each other as we serve You.

Teach us Your ways, and lead us in a plain path. Shine Your light upon the road that our Senators must travel. Give them grace and truth to guide their every decision. Unite them under the banner of Your love, and allow them to speak with one clarion voice that which You would have them say.

Teach us all to lean on Your everlasting arms and give us the grace to lead according to Your everlasting word. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINDSEY O. GRAHAM 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.

### 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 assistant journal clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 25, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina 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, this morning the debate prior to 10:30 will be equally divided in relation to the pending motion to proceed to the gun manufacturers liability bill. At 10:30 this morning, the Senate will proceed to a vote on invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to that bill. I anticipate the Senate will invoke cloture, and I hope we would then be allowed to begin consideration of the bill and the amendment process.

I understand some Members have indicated a desire to speak during the postcloture period, and I do urge those colleagues to allow us to proceed to the underlying bill. There will be plenty of time on the bill to deliver those statements once the bill is before the Senate.

I expect amendments will be offered during today's session, and therefore Members can expect rollcall votes today. We will alert everyone as these votes are scheduled.

Finally, I encourage any Member who intends to offer an amendment to

the bill to contact their respective cloakrooms as soon as possible. It is helpful for both sides of the aisle, in terms of scheduling, if Members notify the managers of any possible amendments.

I thank all Senators and look forward to making substantial progress on the gun manufacturers liability bill throughout the day.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader.

### EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will use leader time for a statement unrelated to the legislation before us.

Every year since 1926, Americans have set aside time in February to recognize and celebrate black history. We owe this celebration of Black History Month to Carter G. Woodson, a brilliant and determined son of former slaves, who made it his mission to write African Americans into America's history books.

Black History Month actually started out as Black History Week. Dr. Woodson chose the second week in February because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced African American history: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Dr. Woodson said:

We should emphasize not Negro history, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but a history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice.

In 1870, in order to rejoin the Union, the Mississippi State Legislature needed to choose someone to fill the seat in the Senate once held by Jefferson Davis. They chose an ordained minister named Hiram Rhodes Revels.

On February 25—134 years ago today—visitors in the Senate galleries

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



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