



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2004

No. 82

Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. John David Kistler, of Hickory, NC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, Your holy word says in the Book of Romans that those who serve in the halls of government are actually Your "ministers." Remind us that the work to be done here today is larger than any particular individual or political party.

Grant wisdom, O Lord, to this assembly that they might understand their responsibility not only to the people of this great Nation, but primarily to You.

May we understand what former President Grover Cleveland said, that "those who manage the affairs of government . . . should be courageously true to the interest of the people, and that the Ruler of the Universe will require of them a strict account of their stewardship."

Turn us, O Lord, back to you in humble contrition and acknowledgment of Your will and Your ways, for it is in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, and Saviour that we humbly pray.

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 we will immediately resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. Under the order, we will resume debate on the Kennedy amendment relating to the earth penetrator. There will be 50 minutes of debate per side prior to the vote in relation to that amendment. Members should expect the first vote today prior to the policy luncheon recess.

As a reminder, the Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy meetings.

Last night, the Senate debated several amendments, and others are waiting in the queue to be offered. I anticipated that we would have votes today throughout the afternoon on some of the pending amendments. I have also previously mentioned the need to set votes on some of the pending judicial nominations. We expect to set three of those judicial nominations for votes late this afternoon, and we will alert Senators as to the precise time when the agreement is locked in.

As I have stated previously, it will be helpful if we can vote on some of these noncontroversial nominations by voice vote and not consume valuable Senate time with rollcall votes that result in unanimous confirmations. I will reiterate the importance of finishing the Defense bill this week. We have a number of scheduling requests, and we are doing our very best to work around those specific requests. However, Members should be prepared for busy days and evenings, if necessary, to finish this important defense legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will use my leader time to make a relatively brief statement.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized for that purpose.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, over the past 4 years, our nation has gained a renewed awareness of the bravery and sacrifice of America's service men and women.

And through the exceptional valor they have routinely displayed, America has also gained a renewed sense of gratitude for the service of our veterans.

So it was with a heightened sense of respect and appreciation that America commemorated the recent anniversary of D-Day and Memorial Day, and dedicated the long-overdue memorial to the generation that fought and won World War II.

The veterans who came to Washington expecting to find one tribute cast in stone, encountered many living tributes, just as meaningful, and just as enduring.

Americans of all ages, of all backgrounds, said "thank you" to the veterans who fought for them. Some gave gifts of American flags. Others asked for pictures.

I recently heard a story about two World War II veterans who were eating dinner at a restaurant, when a young man they had never met thanked them, and struck up a conversation.

He asked about their service, and told them that two of his relatives didn't make it home from Europe.

When it came time for the two older men to pay the tab, they found that the young man had already paid it. He left a card that said, "To two old guys who paid the price, but who are not going to pay today."

The memory of our veterans' achievements will live on long after them, and all Americans should feel proud that, in this way, we have kept faith with our veterans.

But a shadow is cast over the tributes now paid to our veterans, and indeed, to our soldiers fighting in uniform today.

There seems to be a gap between the thanks America offers its veterans in word, and the thanks our government shows veterans in deed.

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



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