



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005

No. 133

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. 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.

Eternal Spirit, who seeks and finds us, let Your light shine on us today. May its bright beams provide us with answers to our questions, assurances for our doubts, strength for our weakness, and vision for our duty.

Illuminate the path of our Senators with the clarity of Your wisdom, so that whatever they say or do will bring honor to You.

Make our lives shining lights of Your goodness that people will see our faithful labors and glorify Your name. Help us to live to bless others.

We pray in the Spirit of Him who is the light of the world. 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Republican leader or his designee.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will start with a 60-minute period for morning business. Following that time, at approximately 10:45 or so, we will return to the pending business, which is the Transportation-Treasury-HUD appropriations bill. We expect to have two votes in relation to the minimum wage issue today. I hope we can schedule those votes early.

We need to make substantial progress on the underlying bill today, and I hope we can get back to amendments pertaining to matters within the scope of the bill. The two managers have been on the floor since Monday, and I know they are prepared to bring this bill to a close as soon as possible. I would reiterate again that we will finish this bill this week, with votes on Friday if necessary.

In addition to the Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill, we continue to move forward with resolve to meet our overall governing responsibilities. Given the significant, unexpected expenditures for Katrina, the Senate will meet the challenge of making tough choices about spending priorities. Most of my days, and the days of my leadership colleagues, have been spent in helping pull people together, in making those tough choices which are focused on restraining Government spending.

That does start at home in this body. Thus, yesterday the Senate overwhelmingly voted to eliminate congressional pay raises. I believe that was an appropriate action. It shows we are serious as we look for savings throughout the Government, and it starts at home in this body.

Eight committees of the Senate are hard at work doing the exact same

thing, and that is prioritizing. I thank and commend the committees and their chairs and ranking members—the HELP Committee, the Banking Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee—for their success yesterday in meeting those goals set out in the budget. I thank the chairmen and the committee members for their tremendous progress to date.

SADDAM HUSSEIN TRIAL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today begins what is no less than the trial of the century, the trial of Saddam Hussein.

For the first time in recent history, a former leader will stand before his own people to be judged and tried for his crimes against humanity. For the first time, the Iraqi people will hear and watch the “Butcher of Baghdad” answer for 23 years of terror.

Saddam’s crimes are surpassed only by the Rwandan genocide, Pol Pot’s killing fields, and the tyrannies of Hitler, Mao, Stalin, and Kim Jong Il.

Egyptians, Kuwaitis, and Iranians were put to death simply because he decreed so. Saddam killed Kurds because of their ethnicity. And he killed Shiites because of their religion, Sunnis for their political views. Even babies and toddlers fell victim to the firing squad.

As Prime Minister al-Jafari said yesterday, there will be no tears for Saddam Hussein. But most surely, there will be tears for the hundreds of thousands of lives he crushed and destroyed with utter ruthlessness.

The trial of Saddam will reveal to the Iraqis and to the world the full extent of his brutality. And as the crimes are tallied and recorded, he will face the full judgment of the people and the uncompromising judgment of history.

I am confident justice will be served and that Saddam and his henchmen will be treated fairly and appropriately. And I am hopeful the process

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S11503