



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007

No. 44

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who alone stretches out the heavens, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. Thank You that our daily work is intended by You to bless us and not to be a burden.

As our lawmakers labor today to fulfill Your purposes, give them strength and wisdom to discern the signs of these times. We do not ask You to give them faith for every day they will live but for enough faith to live 1 day at a time. Lord, keep them vigilant in the face of temptation, resolute in their determination to resist it and do Your will. Fill their hearts with Your spirit so that whatever they do will glorify and honor Your Name. Keep them from becoming weary in doing good, reminding them that at the proper time, they will reap a harvest if they don't give up.

We pray in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 14, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any time Senator MCCONNELL and I will use, there will be 60 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 9 relating to Iraq policy. The time is equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees. The leaders will have the final 20 minutes immediately prior to the vote, with the majority leader controlling the last 10 minutes.

I have had an ongoing discussion with the Republican leader about how we could or would proceed to the Iraq resolution following whatever happens this morning. In addition to Iraq, I mentioned a proposed agreement regarding the U.S. attorney legislation. I anticipate that agreement will be able to be reached soon, which would eliminate the necessity of a cloture vote on the motion to proceed on the legislation. If no agreement is reached, then once we dispose of the Iraq resolution, a cloture vote would occur automatically on the motion to proceed to the U.S. attorney legislation.

As the day progresses, I will have more to say about the schedule after conferring with the Republican leader.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

REACHING AN AGREEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me just indicate that Republican Senators will be voting for cloture on the motion to proceed. The majority leader has it entirely correct. He and I will be discussing during the course of the day how to proceed, both on the Iraq issue and on the U.S. attorney proposal, and we will be, as I indicated, trying to reach an agreement on both of those matters.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I haven't had a chance to confer with the distinguished Republican leader. I would like to ask unanimous consent that there be 5 minutes additional time on each side for the debate prior to the cloture vote.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, finally, on our side, I yield 4 minutes to Senator KENNEDY, 4 minutes to Senator LEVIN, 4 minutes to Senator BIDEN, 4 minutes to Senator NELSON of Florida, and 4 minutes to Senator REED of Rhode Island.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

TO REVISE UNITED STATES POLICY ON IRAQ—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there

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



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