



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

No. 18

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at 2 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

We acknowledge today, O Lord, Your power, mercy, and grace. We need Your power for the challenges we face. We need Your mercy, for we transgress Your law and fall short of Your glory. We need Your grace, for we cannot offer anything to merit Your favor or gain Your love.

Empower our Senators for today's journey. Give them confidence to draw near to You that they may find grace to help them in this time of need. May they pass their days in Your presence. Enable them to learn the faithful stewardship of time, energy, and abundance. Temper their gifts with Your wisdom as You help them with their decisions. Remind them that leadership can work miracles with cooperation but accomplishes little with criticism and bitterness.

We pray in the Name of Him who came to bring peace on Earth. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 5, 2008.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER 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. REID. Mr. President, this morning there will be an hour of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. The first half of the time will be allocated to the minority, the second half to the majority.

ORDER OF RECOGNITION

I now ask unanimous consent that following morning business, I be recognized.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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

STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Americans are probably wondering why the rebate checks we have been talking about now for almost a month are still being debated on the floor of the Senate, and we owe them an answer.

Two weeks ago they saw what looked like a bipartisan agreement between Democrats and Republicans in Congress and the White House over the details of a deal. They saw Speaker PELOSI and Leader BOEHNER, to their great credit, resist the temptation to add pet projects that they knew would only slow the package down—and rob it of its stimulative effect. They heard a chorus of pleas from economists, trade groups, and Members of both parties in both Chambers endorsing this approach. This package had to be targeted and it had to be timely, or it wouldn't work at all.

So most days we find ourselves trying to explain to people why it takes so long to do things in the Senate. But this time was going to be different. Here was that rare situation when both parties agreed to put politics and individual interests aside and come together for the good of the people.

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



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