



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008

No. 77

## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and Eternal God, help us to find ourselves that we may find You and discover one another. Lord, lead us to become part of Your family, part of one another, bound together by ties of Your love.

Unite our lawmakers. Their tasks require strength beyond their individual abilities. Lord, they need Your wisdom and might for this time of challenge. Show them the road on which they can make bipartisan progress and give them the courage to do Your will. Remind them that those who sow sparingly shall reap sparingly and those who sow bountifully shall reap bountifully. Help them to see the unfinished work that is theirs to complete.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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, May 12, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB 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, following leader time, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business, with the time until 5:30 this evening equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. As has been previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes today. There will be votes, though, tomorrow, as early as 11 a.m.—probably about 11:10 a.m.—and we will begin voting in relation to the following items: McConnell amendment on energy, with a 60-vote threshold; the Reid amendment on energy, with a 60-vote threshold—of course, my name is on the amendment because I offered it as part of my leadership responsibilities, but that is an amendment that has been worked on very hard by Senator DORGAN of North Dakota—and passage of the flood insurance legislation. I say, Mr. President, it will be a good day for America when we pass that. That will affect millions of Americans. The Banking Committee did an outstanding job of getting it here ready for passage. Senators DODD and SHELBY did a wonderful job in completing that legislation. And we will also have, tomorrow, a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 980, first responders collective bargaining. With that being the case, we will probably complete our last vote—let's see, we have four votes an hour—maybe about

12:15, something like that, we will start the last vote, give or take a few minutes.

So between now and the Memorial Day recess, we have a tremendous amount of work to do. There is so much unfinished business. But let me mention a few of the things we are going to complete or give it our very best.

The first responders collective bargaining bill: We will be on that tomorrow. The farm bill conference report: We expect the House to consider the conference report as early as Wednesday. We need to complete it before we leave this week, which brings me to the point: We are going to do everything we can to see that we can complete our business by noon on Friday. But that is no guarantee. There will have to be some cooperation among Senators; otherwise, we are going to have to work—I know this is difficult because people have responsibilities other places outside Washington, but we very likely could have some work Friday afternoon, hopefully not very late in the day. But I do not know. Everyone should be prepared and arrange their schedules accordingly.

We have this week and next week. One of the things we need to do is appoint conferees to the budget resolution. The House is expected to appoint conferees this week. There is a statutory 10-hour limitation on debate to go to conference. As Senators know, motions to instruct are in order. I will work with the Republican leader on an agreement to move the process forward in an orderly fashion; otherwise, we will do it in a disorderly fashion, and we will have only 10 hours to be disorderly.

We also have a statutory direction to complete a resolution of disapproval, either yes or no, regarding FCC media ownership rulemaking. The reason we are able to do this, Senator Don Nickles of Oklahoma and I worked in the early 1990s to pass—and we did—a piece

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



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