



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015

No. 15

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 30, 2015, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord of our life, You are a shield for America. Because of Your mercy and power, we lift our heads with optimism. When we cry aloud to You during our moments of exasperation, You answer us from Your Holy mountain. We remain unafraid of what the future holds because You continue to sustain us.

Lord, pour Your blessings upon our lawmakers so they will do Your will. Begin a spiritual awakening in our Nation and let it begin with us. Help us to know You better that we might love You more and thus be more useful to the advancement of Your Kingdom on Earth.

We pray in Your Holy Name. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today we will have two stacks of votes culminating in passage of S. 1, the Keystone bill. Senators should be expected to stay close to the floor as these will be 10-minute votes. We will have five or six votes at 11 a.m. and four or five votes kicking off at 2:30 p.m.

The Senate will be in session tomorrow morning but no votes are expected. The first vote of next week will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

KEYSTONE ENERGY DEBATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in the past few weeks we had a whirlwind, but the Keystone jobs debate has been important for the Senate and for our country. We took about one dozen more rollcall votes on amendments yesterday. That means the Senate has now taken more than twice as many of these amendment votes on this bill alone than were offered or allowed all of last year.

We obviously had a busy afternoon yesterday, and we will continue it again today. It has been an instructive exercise, too, because we learned about more than just the lesser prairie-chicken. We also discovered something about this body. We learned that open floor debates and open amendment processes require hard work, they require dedicated Members, and they require constructive cooperation from across the aisle.

I thanked Senators HOEVEN and MURKOWSKI for their work before. I thank them again now. I note the efforts,

once again, of colleagues such as Senator CANTWELL.

The debate over these American jobs has shown that with bipartisan cooperation, it is possible to get Washington functioning again. This debate is also proving the new Congress is ready to work and work hard for the middle class, even in the teeth of opposition from powerful special interests.

Let's notch one more win for the middle class by passing this important infrastructure project. Constructing Keystone would pump literally billions into our economy. It would support thousands of good American jobs. As the President's own State Department has indicated, it would do this with minimal environmental impact.

The Keystone infrastructure project has been studied endlessly—endlessly—from almost every possible angle. The same general conclusion keeps becoming clear, build it. We need to build it.

Let's make some progress for the American people by voting to pass the Keystone jobs and infrastructure bill.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The acting minority leader is recognized.

A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me say at the outset while the majority leader is still on the floor, it is true we have had a constructive relationship during the last several weeks as we have considered this bill. Although

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S611