

**SENATE—Thursday, June 24, 1999**

The Senate met at 9:33 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Pastor Daniel Holland, Metro Church of Christ, Oviedo, FL.

We are pleased to have you with us.

**PRAYER**

The guest Chaplain, Pastor Daniel D. Holland, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, as we begin a new day, we recognize that You are God and we are Your servants. We confess that we have not always walked in the path of righteousness and ask for Your forgiveness.

May our work this day be honoring to You. Remind us today that You are a promise-keeping God.

As You gave wisdom to King Solomon, so You promise wisdom to those who ask You. We ask for the wisdom to know the difference between what is right and what is wrong.

As You were with Jesus during the difficult days of the cross, so You have promised never to leave us as we serve You. Please give us the spiritual strength to follow wherever You may lead, even when following means a personal price must be paid. As You promise forgiveness, help us forgive those who sin against us. As You promise to provide for our needs, help us to give of ourselves to others.

Father, give us faith to see Your great and precious promises and courage to govern according to them. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. We will all join now in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized.

**FIRST PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I observe that for the first time, I presume, in history we have just opened the session of the Senate with the Pledge of Allegiance led by our most esteemed President pro tempore.

I yield for some brief comments on that to the Senator from New Hampshire.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. I thank the majority leader for his courtesy.

This is a historic day. Ironically, today, the House of Representatives is scheduled to pass a constitutional amendment protecting our flag from desecration and on this same day we are, for the first time in the history of the Senate, as far as I know, saluting the flag as we begin its proceedings.

I thank both leaders, Senator LOTT and Senator DASCHLE, for their support in bringing this resolution to the floor quickly, and also to thank Senators MCCONNELL, HELMS, DORGAN, MIKULSKI, WARNER, BROWNBACK, FEINSTEIN, ROBB, CONRAD, THURMOND, MURKOWSKI, and Senator GORDON SMITH for their co-sponsorship and to thank all of my colleagues as we had a 100-to-0 agreement to do this.

I am proud to be the sponsor of this historic resolution. I stand here at a very historic desk, the desk of Daniel Webster, who was here a few years before me.

This is history being made. I want to give credit to the person who helped make this history happen. Oftentimes, we get letters and phone calls from constituents, sometimes with good ideas, sometimes they are not so good. But in this particular case a young woman, who is in the gallery today, by the name of Rebecca Stewart, of Enfield, NH, made a simple phone call to my office. She said: Why don't we salute the flag before the proceedings begin in the Senate?

I said: That's a good idea. Why didn't I think of that? But I had not.

Thanks to Rebecca, who gave us the idea—and I looked into it with the Rules Committee and everything moved quickly, thanks to both leaders—here we are. Today, Rebecca brought with her the flag that was draped over the coffin of her husband's grandfather, who was a World War II vet.

I think it is very fitting this morning that a young woman from New Hampshire, which has the Nation's first primary, was first to see that the flag of the United States will from now on be saluted prior to the proceedings in the Senate.

I say thank you to Rebecca and to my colleagues for their courtesies in making a good idea come to pass.

I thank the Chair, and I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to express our appreciation to the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH, for his effort. The fact is that the Rules Committee moved swiftly on the resolution. I think I should note for the record that the House of Representatives started this practice some years ago, and it was instigated by my former colleague in the House, Sonny Montgomery. They have been doing it for a number of years, and I think it is most appropriate that we begin to do the same thing in the Senate.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, I think it is important that I take a minute to sort of review the bidding as to what has been going on. There have been a number of discussions as to how to proceed with the pending agriculture appropriations bill, as well as the two pending Patients' Bill of Rights proposals. Senator DASCHLE and I talked numerous times throughout the day. At one point, beginning on Tuesday night, we talked about trying to find a way to take the Patients' Bill of Rights issues up and deal with them on Wednesday and Thursday. We could not quite get that approved.

Then a proposal was made to go ahead and go forward with the appropriations bills and maybe some other legislative issues that could be cleared and to take up the Patients' Bill of Rights issue on Monday, July 12, when we come back from the recess, and spend until the close of business that week, Thursday, July 15, on the Patients' Bill of Rights issue. Originally, I was thinking it would just be sort of a jump ball; we would get started. We would go forward, no limits on amendments, no limits on time, but understanding everybody had to be fair with each other. There should not be an attempt on this side to block a reasonable number of amendments. Neither should there be an attempt on the other side to say we have to have 18 or 26 or 35 or any requisite number of amendments but just do like we do legislative bills—we take them up and go forward.

Concerns developed on both sides of the aisle, and we modified that proposal two or three times. As of late last night, about 6, we were still exchanging ideas. So we do not have a finalized agreement.

I think progress has been made toward finding a way to complete action on the pending bill; that is, the underlying bill, the appropriations bill, as