

SENATE—Wednesday, November 10, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SUSAN M. COLLINS, a Senator from the State of Maine.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we thank You for the impact of women on American history. We praise You for our founding Pilgrim Foremothers and the role they had in establishing our Nation, for the strategic role of women in the battle for our independence, for the incredible courage of women who helped push back the frontier, for the suffragettes who fought for the right to vote and the place of women in our society, for the dynamic women who have given crucial leadership in each period of our history.

Today, Gracious God, we give You thanks for the women who serve here in the Senate: for the outstanding women Senators, for women who serve as officers of the Senate, for women who serve in strategic positions in the ongoing work of the Senate, and for the many women throughout the Senate family who glorify You in their loyalty and in their excellence.

Our prayer today, Gracious Lord, is that the role of women in the Senate would exemplify to the American people the importance of the leadership of women in every level of our society.

Thank You, Gracious God. In Your holy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, 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. THURMOND].

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 10, 1999.

TO THE SENATE: Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SUSAN M. COLLINS, a Senator from the State of Maine, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Ms. COLLINS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

WOMEN IN THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, perhaps my colleagues have already noticed that the Senate seems to be extraordinarily well organized and effective today and there is a reason for that. With apologies from the Chaplain and the majority leader, I think we should note that a significant milestone in the 210-year course of the Senate's history is taking place. Never before has a team composed entirely of women Members and staff opened the day's proceedings. Today's remarkable occasion reminds Members how much the Senate's collective face has changed and improved in recent years.

The Senate has benefited from the service of 27 female Senators since the Honorable Rebecca Felton of Georgia first held that position on November 21, 1922, and particularly since 1932, when Hattie Caraway of Arkansas became the first woman elected to the Senate. While Senator Felton served only 2 days, Ms. Caraway's service continued until 1945, and she became the first woman to chair a Senate Committee.

Another pioneering woman Senator was Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, and the Presiding Officer today, Senator COLLINS, also hails from that State of Maine. Mrs. Smith joined the Senate in 1949 and served until 1973. During her distinguished career, she openly criticized the tactics of fellow Senator Joseph McCarthy in a 1950 speech entitled "A Declaration of Conscience," and became a Presidential candidate in 1964—partially, I believe, because of that famous speech.

Following in these formidable steps was Nancy Landon Kassebaum, now the wife of former Senator and majority leader, Howard Baker of Tennessee. Her nearly 20-year career in the Senate became a model for many women to come. My first few months as majority leader involved a lot of issues but one of them is the now famous Kassebaum-Kennedy bill with regard to portable health issues. She was determined that before she left the Senate she was going to leave an indelible mark, and she did for many reasons but for that piece of legislation in particular.

In January 1993 as the Senators of the 103rd Congress took the oath of office, an unprecedented six women assumed their place on the floor. Since that time, the number of women Senators has grown to nine.

In recent years, the role of women officers has continued to grow, as well. In 1985, Jo-Anne Coe became the first woman to serve as Secretary of the Senate. In 1991, Martha Pope became the first female Sergeant at Arms. In 1995, Elizabeth Letchworth became the first Secretary of the majority for the Republicans and presently still holds that position. Currently, women serve as: Assistant Secretary (Sharon Zelaska), Deputy Sergeant at Arms (Loretta Symms), Assistant Parliamentarian (Elizabeth MacDonough), Official Reporter of Debates (Katie-Jane Teel), Assistant Journal Clerk (Myra Baran), Assistant Legislative Clerk (Kathie Alvarez), Bill Clerk (Mary Anne Clarkson), Assistant Secretary for the Minority (Lula Davis), and Republican Floor Assistant (Laura Martin). They all do a fantastic job, and we appreciate their service so much. They have been involved in a lot of activities in the last year, some of it they would just as soon have been able to miss, but they have done a great job every time they have been called upon.

Over the years, the Senate has changed as an ever-increasing number of women ran for and were elected to public office. Since the end of World War II, there has been a steady increase in the number of women serving this institution as legislative clerks and other appointed officials. This is a historic day and a long time in coming—too long. I am proud it happened under my watch.

To the women in the Chamber today and all of those who serve elsewhere in the Senate, let me take a moment to say thank you and extend my personal best wishes to all of our leaders, women officers of the Senate, and remind people just how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the bankruptcy reform legislation with up to 4 hours of debate on the Hatch amendment No. 2771 regarding drugs. I must say to my colleagues, this bill is moving very slowly. The Democratic leader and I, TOM DASCHLE, have agreed we would let the amendments go forward and let the Members have an opportunity to work their will, but we also want to get this important