



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

SENATE—Friday, October 6, 2000

(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Gracious Father, who has given us life, bless us today in the work we will do. We praise You for work that can be done as an expression of our worship of You. We bring the meaning of our faith to our work rather than making our work the ultimate meaning of our lives. With that perspective, we seek to do everything to Your glory. We pray for mental alertness, emotional stability, and physical strength to achieve excellence in all that we do. Thank You for Your companionship in tasks great and small. It is awesome to contemplate that You who are in control of the universe have placed us in charge of what You want to accomplish through us.

Fill us with Your joy and make us cheerful people who make others happier because we are with them. Make us a blessing and not a burden, a lift and not a load, a delight and not a drag. It's great to be alive! Help us make a difference because of the difference You have made in us. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JAMES M. INHOFE, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, 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 ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I say on behalf of the leader, the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 10 a.m. Following morning business the Senate is expected to begin consideration of the conference report to accompany the Transportation appropriations bill or the sex trafficking conference report. The House is expected to consider the Transportation appropriations legislation this morning. Therefore, it is hoped that a vote can occur prior to noon today. Senators will be notified as soon as votes are scheduled. The leader thanks our colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with time to be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Iowa.

ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Congress has wisely passed and will send to the President for signature H.R. 4733, the energy and water development appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. I strongly urge the President to sign this vital legislation.

Proper management of our Nation's rivers is a concern for many Americans. Our rivers provide us drinking water, transportation, and recreation. They also provide habitat for aquatic life, wildlife, and birds. Good management techniques provide that all of these purposes are taken into account and managed appropriately and fairly.

I firmly believe that H.R. 4733 provides for good river management. Specifically, section 103 prohibits the use of funds to revise the Missouri River Master Water Control Manual if the revision provides for increases in spring-time water releases during spring heavy rainfall or snow melt. Many Iowans see this as just good common sense.

Increased spring water releases could easily cause the wild Missouri, and its many tributaries, to once again flood low-lying areas, including farmland and communities. Floods would cause a severe economic hardship on those affected. Farmers would be unable to plant crops, and home and business owners would experience property damage. Economic activity in the flood areas would decrease or cease during and immediately after the flooding, causing a loss of income for those impacted.

Many Americans forget what it was like to live along the Missouri prior to the construction of the dams. They forgot that the Missouri was truly wild. They forgot what it was like not to be able to safely plant your crops, grow them with some security that there would not be summer floods, and then be able to harvest them safely. They forgot what it was like to lose all or part of a crop. That meant the loss of your investment in time, labor, seed and other inputs. And that meant no income coming in after the harvest.

The folks in town were hurt, too. Houses and businesses were swept away. Basements were flooded with water, muck and other debris. Sometimes the water level went higher than that to the first floor, or even higher. Furniture and family keepsakes were destroyed. Businesses lost inventories. They could not serve their customers if the store was closed. Public drinking water system suffered damage, as did sewer systems. The economic devastation was high. The quality of life suffered. Increased spring water releases would also cause less water to be released during the summer months. The

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