



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

SENATE—Friday, October 13, 2000

(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)

The Senate met at 10 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:

Almighty God, Sovereign of our beloved Nation, we thank You for the women and men who serve in the United States Navy. Today, we celebrate the 225th birthday of the Navy with them, veterans of naval service, and the Members of this Senate who hold cherished memories of their own service in the Navy. We remember the words of John Paul Jones, the father of the Navy, "Sir, I have not yet begun to fight." He defied defeat and surrender on that day in 1779 and gave the Navy not only a motto for heroism but an example of courage that has remained strong during war as well as in peacetime service to our Nation.

Yet, Lord, our celebration of this birthday of the Navy is mingled with grief for the sailors of the U.S.S. *Cole* who were killed, injured, or are missing as a result of an explosion in the destroyer as it was pulling into Aden, Yemen. Dear Father, be with the sailors' families and friends at this time of loss.

Lord, our minds drift back to the gallantry of the Navy in American history. May the men and women of the Navy know of the profound gratitude and esteem this Senate has for them.

And Lord, we could not celebrate the Navy's birthday without a special expression of thanks to You for our own friend and doctor, Admiral John Eisold, the physician for the Members and officers of the Congress. Bless him and all of the Navy personnel on this special day. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TED STEVENS, a Senator from the State of Alaska, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Mississippi.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, in behalf of the majority leader, I am pleased to announce that today the Senate will begin debate on the conference report to accompany the Agriculture appropriations bill.

Under a previous order, debate on the conference report is limited to today's session, the session on Tuesday, and a brief period on Wednesday morning.

The vote on the Agriculture appropriations conference report is scheduled to occur at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Although no votes are scheduled for Tuesday at this time, votes could occur on Tuesday, if necessary.

The Senate may also consider any legislative or Executive Calendar items available for action during today's session.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SPECTER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCY PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4461, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill, H.R. 4461, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration, and related agency programs

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement of the Senate amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the RECORD of Friday, October 6, 2000.)

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my prepared remarks describing the provisions of this conference report be printed at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am very pleased to announce to the Senate that we successfully completed action in our conference committee and brought back to the Senate a bill that has already been approved by the other body by a substantial vote of support, and indications are that the President is prepared to sign this conference report.

I am pleased to make that announcement because during the development of this legislation and the markup sessions that we held here in the Senate, and discussions of the bill on the floor of the Senate, there were some very contentious and controversial issues that were debated and considered. We didn't achieve all of the successes that Senators wanted to achieve, as is usually the case in the situation where you are negotiating compromise with the other body and dealing with views and opinions reflected in the policies of the administration. But, taken together, given the expressions of support and interest in the Senate for the provisions that are in the bill, I am confident that most Senators will be very pleased with this result.

This is a good bill. It deserves the support of the Senate.

It provides a restrained approach to funding the activities of the Agencies and Departments of Government that are funded in this bill.

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