

SENATE—Thursday, May 11, 2000

The Senate met at 9:32 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MICHAEL D. CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Edward Robinson, from the Central Union Church, Honolulu, HI.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. Edward Robinson, offered the following prayer:

Let us speak together in prayer.

Almighty God, our Creator and our Redeemer, there are those across the aisle or awaiting us in our office or in some other corner of the world whose might and power trouble us and may even make us afraid, but Your strength grants us courage. There are those whose intelligence and oratory make us feel humbled and vulnerable, but Your wisdom gives us grace to meet the challenge.

There are those whose laughter and jibes or the things they write about us sometimes hurt, ridicule, and demean us, but Your smile makes us welcome and tells us we are worthwhile. There are those whose schemes and dreams for humanity confuse, bewilder, and terrify us, but Your vision for our lives gives us joy and hope.

Lord, in this incredible arena of power and decisionmaking, in these incredible times as citizens of this land, surrounded by all these incredible people, teach us to use our God-given talents to serve as You have served us. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MICHAEL D. CRAPO 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 THE 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 11, 2000.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL D. CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CRAPO thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, before I give the opening script for the leader, I would like to defer to the Senator from Hawaii for a few minutes.

Mr. AKAKA. I thank the Senator.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

GUEST CHAPLAIN, DR. EDWARD "TED" ROBINSON

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am very pleased and extremely honored to welcome to the Senate our guest Chaplain today, Rev. Dr. Edward Merritt "Ted" Robinson of Central Union Church in Honolulu.

Dr. Robinson is senior minister at Central Union Church in Honolulu, the largest United Church of Christ in the West and 1 of the 10 largest in the United States. Central Union was founded over 150 years ago, and the "Church in the Garden" is renowned for its commitment to community outreach as much as for its beautiful sanctuary. For over a century, the congregation has worked to put its faith into action in Hawaii, nationally, and throughout Asia and the Pacific.

Dr. Robinson has served as senior minister at Central Union for 15 years and has ministered in the United Church of Christ for over 30 years. He was born in Westwood, MA, and received his bachelor's degree from Yankton College and bachelor of theology degree from Yankton School of Theology. He holds a master's of divinity from United Seminary in St. Paul and master's of sacred theology from the Iliff School of Theology at the University of Denver. He earned his doctor of ministry degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

In addition to his work in the United Church of Christ, Dr. Robinson has served on a number of boards and commissions in Honolulu including the Salvation Army, Girl Scouts, Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, Hawaii Habitat for Humanity, and Honolulu Boy Choir.

Ted and Barbara Robinson are the proud parents of two children, Sarah and Jonathan, and one granddaughter.

When we are home in Hawaii, we frequently worship at Central Union. Ted Robinson is one of the finest preachers

to grace Hawaii. He is a friend and source of comfort for me and my family and inspires his active and growing congregation to live their lives as courageous people of faith. By word and deed, he embraces the mission of Central Union inscribed in the sanctuary above the altar: "Love Never Filleth."

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome my good friend and minister to the Senate.

Aloha.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. We thank the Senator and join with him in his gracious welcome to Reverend Robinson.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we all thank Reverend Robinson for his prayer this morning and for his leadership in the spiritual world.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for the leader, I will announce today's business.

The Senate will resume debate on the conference report to accompany the African Growth and Opportunity Act. By previous consent, at 10 a.m. the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the conference report. If cloture is invoked, debate will resume with the anticipation of an early afternoon vote on final passage of the trade bill. Senators will be notified as further votes are scheduled.

Following the disposition of this important legislation, it is hoped the Senate can begin consideration of the military construction appropriations bill.

The leader thanks colleagues for their attention and cooperation.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 4386

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4386) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to surveillance and information concerning the relationship between cervical cancer and the human papillomavirus (HPV), and for other purposes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on this matter at this time.