

SENATE—Tuesday, October 16, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN EDWARDS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

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

The Psalmist reminds us: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Let us pray: Dear God, grant us spiritual, intellectual, and physical revitalization today. You provide boundless energy for the tense and tired. Your life force surges within us to give us enthusiasm for the work of this day and for the many challenges that we face. You lift out of our souls fear and panic, and in their place You put Your peace and power. Your love for us gives us a renewed desire to love and care for the people around us. Help us to give each other the quality of kindness and patience and encouragement that You have expressed to us. Saturate our souls with Your grace so that in spite of everything, joy might radiate on our faces and be expressed in our attitudes.

Astound us again with the magnitude of responsibility You have given to this Senate to lead this great Nation at this crucial time. Thank You for the moral and spiritual leadership You have called the Senators to provide for America. And so grant them special strength today; fill them with Your spirit so that everything that they say and do might glorify You. We count it a great blessing to be alive today and to be equipped by You to do the work of government with inspired excellence. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN EDWARDS 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. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 16, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN EDWARDS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a very important briefing now taking place downstairs, and it is the thought that the Presiding Officer and other Senators should be there. I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:04 a.m., recessed until 10:52 a.m., when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the time between now and 11:30 be divided equally between the majority and minority for morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum. I ask unanimous consent, further, that the time be equally divided between the minority and majority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, how much time is remaining for morning business on each side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Four and one-half minutes on each side.

HOLDING UP APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Mr. REID. Madam President, today is the fifth anniversary—that is, weekly

anniversary—of the attacks our Nation sustained on September 11. These attacks fundamentally changed the legislative priorities of the 107th Congress. The sense of urgency which fell upon the Congress has required all of us—every Senator, all the leadership, committee chairmen—to reorder their priorities to deal with the new war-related demands. The necessary sacrifices have been for a greater cause.

In addition to the war-related measures we had to undertake, the administration, of course, is expecting us to pass all the annual spending bills necessary to keep the Government operating. Regrettably, in the past several weeks there has been a concerted effort by some to prevent us from considering these measures. In fact, there are no basic policy differences or disagreements in these measures. They are driven by a desire to increase the number of judicial nominations.

Let me say in response, the statement made yesterday by a number of people on the other side that the majority leader and I, when we were in the minority, held up legislation because of judges is simply not true. We made statements. The only time there was ever an effort, as I recall—and they talked about it yesterday—was an authorization bill, not an appropriations bill. In fact, we worked very hard to move appropriations bills. We were in the minority, but we worked very hard to have our Members take off holds on bills so we could move the appropriations bills through the process.

We did a good job. We worked with them to pass virtually every appropriations bill. Senator DASCHLE did nothing to hold up appropriations bills. In fact, he worked very hard to pass them. One of the assignments I had from Senator DASCHLE was to get rid of amendments on appropriations bills. I worked hard to do that.

Now, in an effort to get judicial confirmations, appropriations bills are being held up. I had someone tell me yesterday: We could whip right through these. When the time comes to complete these bills, we will do them quickly.

We can't do appropriations bills quickly. It is the nature of these bills that they are hard. Foreign operations is always a contentious bill. Labor-HHS is a contentious bill. Defense appropriations is a contentious bill. D.C. appropriations is difficult legislation. We are not going to be able to whip through these bills. The time we have taken in these last several days waiting on motions to proceed, using up 30 hours, is time we could have spent on appropriations.