

SENATE—Thursday, November 8, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The guest Chaplain, Elder Francis Cree, the Spiritual Leader of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, in Dunseith, ND, will lead us in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Elder Francis Cree, offered the following prayer:

[Speaking Chippewa]

Great Spirit of God, we want to thank You for this wonderful day You have given us, for all the many good things You have blessed us with. You have also given us this love and respect and unity and faith in God. And we ask You, at this time, that You bless the President, and all his employees, and all of us here and all over the world. We thank You. We thank You, again.

That is the prayer I said in the Chippewa language.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 8, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from North Dakota.

WELCOMING ELDER FRANCIS CREE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased this morning to welcome a good friend and distinguished North Dakotan, Francis Cree, to the Senate. I thank him for his moving and inspirational prayer.

Francis Cree is the Spiritual Leader and Tribal Elder of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa of North Dakota. He is the official Pipe Carrier for the Tribe, a position of honor and leadership. He led the tribe as chairman in the 1950s and served several terms on the Tribal Council.

Francis spends countless hours teaching young tribal members about Chippewa culture and traditions. Last year, he even made an award-winning CD called, "The Elders Speak."

Francis is married to Rose Cree, a well-known artist who makes beautiful willow and birchbark baskets, several of which are displayed in my office. They were recently featured at the Smithsonian's Festival of American Folk Life on the Mall here in our Nation's Capital.

Francis and Rose have 14 children, and, according to Rose, "too many grandchildren and great-grandchildren to count, but there are well over a hundred." In May, Rose and Francis will celebrate 63 years of marriage.

Congratulations to you both.

I am very pleased to welcome Francis Cree to the Senate this morning. I thank him for being here and for sharing his inspiring message with us.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before my friend from North Dakota leaves the Chamber, and before Spiritual Leader and Tribal Elder Cree leaves the Chamber, I say, I never had the opportunity in the Senate Chamber to say this to anyone who would understand it, but the Senator from North Dakota and the tribal leader will: I am a Pipe Carrier for the Pyramid Paiute Tribe in northern Nevada. I have been through the ceremony. It was very dignified and impressive. It was a ceremony I will never forget.

So I am very happy we have had this very time-honored tradition now done in opening the Senate in prayer. I congratulate the Senator from North Dakota in bringing one of the most-revered citizens of his State to the U.S. Capitol.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank my colleague from Nevada.

My colleague, Senator DORGAN, is chairing a hearing in another part of

the Capitol complex and will come to the Chamber later today to also memorialize this occasion. I do not want this moment to pass without indicating Senator DORGAN was here earlier but had to leave to chair a meeting of his subcommittee elsewhere in the Capitol complex or else he would be here as well.

I thank the Chair.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will begin consideration of the Intelligence Authorization Act. The only amendments in order to this bill are relevant amendments, with the exception of two possible amendments regarding immigrant deportation that may be offered by Senator SMITH of New Hampshire and Senator LEAHY. Rollcall votes are possible throughout the day.

I note that we are expecting to receive from the House at or about noon today the VA-HUD appropriations bill that has been worked on for many months, led by Senator MIKULSKI and the ranking member, Senator BOND. It is a very important bill.

This will be the sixth bill we would send to the President for his signature. There are other appropriations conference reports moving toward completion now. We should be able to do several more of those in the next few days.

I also indicate that we have some extremely important items to consider, as the entire Senate knows. We are hopeful of working on the stimulus package next week. The majority leader will have announcements about that later on in the day.

We have a lot to do on most-important matters, but I indicate, it is very timely we will be working today on the intelligence authorization bill. The two managers will be Senator GRAHAM of Florida and the ranking member, Senator SHELBY of Alabama. We hope to complete the bill very soon today. It should not take a lot of time we hope. But whatever time it takes, we need to complete that legislation today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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