

SENATE—Tuesday, December 4, 2001

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, on this day designated by Congress to be a Day of Reconciliation, we confess anything which stands between us and You and between us and anyone else. We long to be in a right relationship with You again. We know the love, joy, and peace that floods our being when we are reconciled with You. We become riverbeds for the flow of the supernatural gifts of leadership: wisdom, knowledge, discernment, vision, and authentic charisma. We confess our pride that estranges us from You and our judgmentalism that strains our relationships. Forgive our cutting words and hurting attitudes toward other religions or races and people with different beliefs, political preferences, or convictions on issues. So often we are divided into camps of liberal and conservative, Republican and Democrat, and are critical of those with whom we disagree. Help us to express to each other the grace we have received in being reconciled to You. May our efforts to reach out to each other be a way of telling You how much we love You. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW 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, December 4, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. STABENOW 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.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, this morning the Senate will consider the Transportation conference report under a 60-minute time agreement. A vote on the conference report will occur today. At approximately 10:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the Railroad Retirement Act with the Daschle substitute amendment pending under postcloture conditions. There will be rollcall votes on amendments to the Railroad Retirement Act during today's session.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conferences.

On behalf of the majority leader, I have been asked to tell everyone we appreciate the cooperation yesterday. We are moving along on the legislation. There are just a few things left we have to do before we leave for the Christmas break.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2299, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2299) "making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes," having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and the House agree to the same, with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD on November 29, 2001.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under a previous order, there will now be 60 minutes for debate.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I rise to bring before the Senate the conference report accompanying the Transportation appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002.

This conference agreement represents many weeks of negotiations with the House and the administration, and I am proud of the progress it will bring to our Nation's transportation system.

This conference agreement has already passed the House by an overwhelming margin of 371-11.

In total, the bill includes appropriations and obligation limitations totaling roughly \$59.6 billion.

While that is about \$1.5 billion more than the fiscal year 2001 level, it is approximately \$400 million less than the amount passed by the Senate on August 1.

It was very difficult to pare \$400 million out of the Senate bill, but we did so while carefully looking out for the needs of all of the critical agencies within the Department of Transportation as well as the Members' individual priorities.

The conference agreement provides funding levels that are equal to or higher than the operating accounts for agencies such as the Coast Guard, the FAA, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Several important safety initiatives—that were included in the Senate bill—have been maintained, including: the hiring of new aviation safety and security inspectors, improvements to the Coast Guard's struggling search and rescue mission, and additional funding to increase seat belt use across the nation.

The bill before us also includes a full \$1.25 billion in funding to launch the transportation security act, which is the aviation security bill that was enacted just a few days ago.

The act required that the revenues from its user fees be appropriated before becoming available.

The security act includes many strict deadlines for the improvement of our aviation security system.

And we expect the DOT to meet those deadlines.