

SENATE—Thursday, March 29, 2001

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF SESSIONS, a Senator from the State of Alabama.

PRAYER

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

Sovereign God, help us to know what we mean when we call You our Sovereign. May this name for You, used so frequently by our Founding Fathers and Mothers, become an experienced assurance in our lives. Abigail Adams' own words written to her husband John on June 20, 1776, become our motto: "God will not forsake a people engaged in so right a cause, if we remember His loving kindness." O Divine Master, help us to be engaged in causes that You have assigned and never forget Your faithfulness.

Belief in Your sovereignty gives us a sense of dependence that leads to true independence. All that we have and are is Your gift. When we are totally dependent on You for guidance and strength, we become completely free of fear and anxiety. What You guide, You provide. Trust in Your sovereignty provides supernatural power to accomplish what You give us to do for Your glory. And acceptance of Your sovereignty gives us courage. This is Your Chamber. It is holy ground; keep this Senate sound. May Your sovereign authority abound. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF SESSIONS 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. THURMOND].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 29, 2001.

To the Senate:

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

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SESSIONS 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.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the DeWine amendment regarding issue advocacy ads. There will be up to 15 minutes of debate prior to a vote at 9:45. Following the vote, Senator HARKIN will be recognized to offer an amendment regarding volunteer spending limits. By previous consent, there will be up to 2 hours of debate on the amendment. Senators should be aware that the vote on the Harkin amendment is expected to occur prior to noon today.

Further amendments will be offered throughout the day. There will be numerous votes, with the goal of completing action on the bill by this evening.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been in contact with the two managers of the bill, and I have indicated that Senator DODD and I have worked to cut down the list. We have several amendments. I think there has been a civil debate in this 2-week period of time. There have been very few quorum calls in effect. We are going to do what we can.

I alert everyone, to finish this bill today is going to be extremely difficult. We had 21 amendments yesterday on this side. We are down now to about 14. We picked up two during the night. I am sure most of them will work with time limits on the amendments. But that having been said, it is going to be very difficult to finish today. I think the leadership should consider we will have to have something else either going into tomorrow or Saturday or finishing next week.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I must say while the amendments seem to be multiplying on the other side, they are vanishing on this side. There are a couple of amendments, but there is really only one, I think, that has any serious drama attached to it, and that is the nonseverability amendment which we hope to vote on later today, to be offered by Senator FRIST, in coordination with a member of the Democratic Party from the other side of the aisle.

I say to my friend, the Democratic whip, we don't have many amendments left to go over here, so we may at some point just be dealing with Democratic amendments.

Mr. REID. We will do our best to cooperate with the manager of the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield? Mr. MCCONNELL. I am happy to yield.

Mr. MCCAIN. Over the last 2 weeks, literally every day I have been standing on the floor with the Senator from Kentucky and the Senator from Nevada saying we are going out early, we have a lot of amendments to go, and we need to get this done, and everybody wants to get it done by the end of this week, particularly by this evening. Apparently that is going to be very difficult to do.

My suggestion to the Senator from Kentucky and the leadership on both sides is stay in tonight until we get it done or—that is my first choice. My second choice would be tomorrow and then on Saturday. I think we are all aware that the leadership wants to move to the budget debate. I think that is appropriate. We all agreed at the beginning that 2 weeks was sufficient time to address this issue.

One thing I suggest to the Senator from Kentucky and the Senator from Nevada is tabling motions, but clearly first-degree amendments have at least an hour and a half, even if all time is yielded back on the other side.

I hope most Members appreciate that there are a couple or three issues, the main one being severability, but the rest of them either have been addressed in some fashion or are not of compelling impact, even though the authors of the amendments may believe that is the case.

I urge my colleagues to be prepared to stay in very late tonight because we need to finish this legislation.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I say to my friend from Arizona, he will notice I have not filed a cloture motion. I have said that there is only one major amendment left, the nonseverability amendment, which will be offered on a bipartisan basis, and that there are few to no amendments left on this side.

From my point of view, as someone who is certainly unenthusiastic about this bill and will vigorously oppose it, nevertheless I realize it is time to get to final passage sometime today. I say to the Senator from Arizona we will not have a problem getting to final passage because of this side. We cleared things out on our side and are ready to go to final passage. I am happy to finish it up sometime today.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I don't want to belabor this. I briefly say to