

**SENATE—Monday, April 23, 2001**

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Presiding Officer, the Honorable JUDD GREGG, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

**PRAYER**

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

Yaweh our Adonai, how excellent is Your name in all the Earth. Today, as we return from recess and at the beginning of Jewish Heritage Week, we praise You for the immense contribution Jews have made to America. We remember the first Jewish community in Newport, Rhode Island comprised of Sephardim, persecuted Spanish and Portugese Jews who arrived in the spring of 1658. This group of refugees began to worship together in private homes or rented buildings until a synagogue building, the Touro Hebrew Congregation, was constructed. On the wall of this synagogue is a letter from George Washington expressing his belief in religious freedom as the standard for civil liberty: "To bigotry give no sanction, to persecution no assistance." We also echo the words of Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island: "All men may walk as their consciences persuade them, everyone in the name of his God."

On this day we thank You for the ten Jewish Senators and their strong moral and social consciences. May Your shalom rest upon us all. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 23, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDD GREGG, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

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

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

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

**MORNING BUSINESS**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the time until 1 p.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, or his designee.

The Senator from Nevada.

**BROWNFIELDS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an important piece of legislation that I believe we should be working on today, certainly tomorrow. This legislation, the bipartisan brownfields bill, S. 350, was reported from the Environment and Public Works Committee on February 27 by a vote of 15-3. This legislation now has 66 cosponsors. It is ready for floor action and has been for more than a month. There were a couple of people in committee who voiced concerns about specific bill language, particularly Senator VOINOVICH. I indicated at that time that we would work with him prior to the bill being ready for floor action to satisfy any problems he might have, and we did that. We worked with him, and I think Senator VOINOVICH is satisfied. Actually we worked day and night to reconcile these differences.

The bill is very important. The bill would produce almost 600,000 jobs around our country. It would increase annual tax revenues up to \$2.4 billion. This is important environmental legislation. We need to move forward immediately. There has been a lot of controversy over what President Bush has done and what he has not done, but the one thing that he campaigned on was this legislation. He campaigned on the importance of this legislation. This is a bill the Clinton administration endorsed. This is legislation that we should move forward. I see no reason we cannot. We are ready on this side to move forward. We hope that our friends on the other side of the aisle are ready to move forward. We have worked on this legislation for years. It is just not in the best interests of this country not

to move forward. We have to move forward. This bill is truly a compromise. It is a consensus. I think its passage would indicate the true nature of this Senate. We are split 50-50, and this legislation, certainly with 66 cosponsors, indicates our ability to reach across the aisle both ways. When we entered into this historic power sharing agreement this year, we indicated that we had a thoughtful, bipartisan Senate. I think it indicates the bipartisan nature of this bill. There is no need to wait any longer. We have a half million contaminated abandoned sites in the United States that are waiting to be cleaned up to become thriving parts of our communities. Some of these sites would take only a few dollars to clean up.

For example, Mr. President, in Las Vegas, where we have the old National Guard armory, \$50,000 in brownfields money cleaned that up and produced a site that is now really a thriving economic entity within the State of Nevada. It is creating jobs. There is now a tax base that will help support the people of Las Vegas and the State of Nevada.

I do not want to be partisan today and I will not be partisan today, but as the days go on I am going to have to be more direct as to what the problem is in holding up this legislation. As I said, we are clear on this side. It is not right to hold up this bill. And I also say that this legislation has the support of the Senate. If we do not move this bill forward—and I think we could finish in just a few hours—in the regular course, I am going to be obligated to attach this bill to other legislation that moves through this body.

I repeat, with 600,000 jobs, 500,000 abandoned sites, increasing annual tax revenues up to \$2.4 billion, this is a bill that is good for the environment. It is good for jobs. We should not delay its consideration any longer. It is supported by the last administration, supposedly by this administration, and I hope the leadership in the Senate, the majority leader, will allow this matter to be brought before the Senate.

This legislation has been worked on very closely by Senators VOINOVICH, INHOFE, BOND, and CRAPO, as well as Senators CLINTON, BOXER, CORZINE, and GRAHAM to accommodate all their interests. Senator SMITH and I have worked hard to have this bill reported out of committee. I hope we can have action on the Senate floor at an early date—maybe this afternoon, maybe tomorrow. But I think we should move forward quickly.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.