



United States  
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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## SENATE—Thursday, February 3, 2005

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. John Holt of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches in Providence, RI.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

O God, on this day of prayer, we ask: Who will find their way home to You?

If we listen, O God, You tell us: The ones who seek to do right, the ones who speak heart-felt truth, the ones whose tongues know not slander, the ones who inflict no evil upon friends, will find their way home to You.

O God, on this day of prayer, we wonder: Who will be lifted up to Your holy heavens?

If we listen, O God, You tell us: The ones who walk with integrity, the ones who love their neighbor, the ones who hold fast to their word, the ones who embrace the innocent, will be lifted up on high.

O God, on this day of prayer: we hope: That those who serve in the Senate, that those who live in our land, that those who are our friends, and those who are our enemies, will seek to live within Your will.

For we know, O God, that those who live as You desire, shall abide in Your presence. They shall not be moved, not now, not ever. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the hour that I have been given to the Senator from Maryland for distribution in morning business.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Chair how much time is remaining on both sides for the Gonzales nomination?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There are 8 hours remaining on the nomination.

Mr. REID. Is it equally divided?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair's understanding is that it is equally divided all the way through the day.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there shall be a period for the transaction of morning business for 2 hours, with the first hour under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second hour under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I yield 1 minute to the Senator from Rhode Island. I understand the Chaplain is a constituent of his.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

### WELCOME TO GUEST CHAPLAIN JOHN HOLT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to recognize my friend John Holt, who is one of the great leaders of our faith community in Rhode Island. In many dimensions, his efforts have made our State a much better place, more decent, more noble, and more caring. He is somebody who recognizes that faith is not just words but it is actions, and each day he tries to put those faithful actions into the lives of the people of Rhode Island. With great pride, it is a

pleasure and a real privilege to recognize today his serving as the Chaplain of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

### SOCIAL SECURITY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, as the senior Democratic woman of the Senate, I rise to tell my colleagues today that we, the Democratic women of the Senate, want to take the floor together and unanimously stand up for Social Security. We want to stand up for American families, stand up for American children, and stand up against the dismemberment of Social Security. This morning my colleagues will see all of us taking the floor to speak with passion, to speak with fortitude, to say that no matter what happens in the legislative days ahead, the outcome will be that Social Security will always be a guaranteed benefit and not a guaranteed gamble.

When one gets old and they are sick, there are not many things they can count on but they should be able to count on Social Security. Our seniors' retirement should never rely on the bull of political promises or the bear of the market.

We women are at risk, and that is why we want a guaranteed benefit, not a guaranteed gamble. We, the women, know the odds. We know that Social Security cannot be slot machine Social Security, that when one pulls the lever they get a lemon instead of three gold bars.

All of our lives we have been placed in the penalty box just because of who we are. We earn less money than men, and we often work at jobs less likely to have a pension. We are in and out of the marketplace because of family responsibilities. We live longer, and the consequences are when we retire we get less. Social Security is a great equalizer and we want to be out of the penalty box and be in a guaranteed benefit box.

Right now, even in the debate we are already getting ready to face discrimination. Chairman THOMAS of the Ways

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.