

SENATE—Monday, March 7, 2005

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Merciful God, Who lives and reigns forever, You know every heart and mind. You are the shield and protection of those whose hearts are right. We thank You for being so near to us. We thank You also for the gift of life and for the blessing of this new day.

Give wisdom to our lawmakers in their work. Let kindness and justice characterize their deliberations. May the decisions they make help build defenses for the weak and shelters for the strangers. Give them words that will bring healing and a renewal of hope.

Destroy the power of evil and give strength to those who follow You. God all powerful, listen and answer, for we trust in You. 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 256, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 256) to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Leahy amendment No. 26, to restrict access to certain personal information in bankruptcy documents.

Feinstein amendment No. 19, to enhance disclosures under an open end credit plan.

Kennedy amendment No. 44, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

Dorgan/Durbin amendment No. 45, to establish a special committee of the Senate to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq and to fight the war on terrorism.

Pryor amendment No. 40, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of any information in any consumer report by any credit card issuer that is unrelated to the transactions and experience of the card issuer with the consumer to increase the annual percentage rate applicable to credit extended to the consumer.

Reid (for Baucus) amendment No. 50, to amend section 524(g)(1) of title 11, United States Code, to predicate the discharge of debts in bankruptcy by a vermiculite mining company meeting certain criteria on the establishment of a health care trust fund for certain individuals suffering from an asbestos related disease.

Dodd amendment No. 52, to prohibit extensions of credit to underage consumers.

Dodd amendment No. 53, to require prior notice of rate increases.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, we are resuming consideration of the bankruptcy legislation. Under the order from last week, at 2:30, we will begin 3 hours of debate in relation to the Kennedy and Santorum amendments regarding minimum wage. That consent agreement provides for two votes to begin at 5:30 today on the Kennedy and Santorum minimum wage amendments.

I do remind my colleagues that a cloture motion was filed on Friday, and that cloture vote will occur at 2:15 on Tuesday. Senators should also be aware that under the provisions of rule XXII, and pursuant to our unanimous consent agreement, all first-degree amendments should be filed by 2:30 today and second-degrees by noon tomorrow. We also have a unanimous consent agreement that provides for a vote in relation to the Schumer amendment at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow, on Tuesday.

With that said, we will have busy sessions over the next couple of days as we try to finish our work on the bankruptcy bill. I do hope we can invoke cloture tomorrow afternoon and bring this bill to a final vote. As all Senators know, if cloture is invoked, germane amendments are still in order, and there could be up to an additional 30 hours of consideration.

Last week, we had a productive week. We had full days of debate and votes. Therefore, I expect we will complete action on the bill either Tuesday or Wednesday of this week.

Mr. President, I would be happy to turn to the Democratic leader.

Mr. President, I would like to make a few comments on another issue now because at 2:30 today we will be going to the debate on the minimum wage amendments.

PILGRIMAGE TO SELMA AND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY

Mr. President, I rise to spend a few moments reflecting on a historical event that occurred 40 years ago today. Historians view the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March as one of the emotional high points of the modern civil rights movement that began in the 1950s.

Yesterday, a number of Members of Congress went on a pilgrimage to Selma and marched across that Edmund Pettus Bridge. I was part of that delegation. I had that opportunity to do that same march in remembrance of the Selma to Montgomery 1965 crossing of that bridge in the past.

From a historical standpoint, as we look back, we recall that 40 years ago today—actually on a Sunday—but 40 years ago today, on that Sunday, on that march, approximately 600 people left historic Brown Chapel and walked a few blocks and then went around the corner and over that Edmund Pettus Bridge, going east toward Montgomery. They went on the other side of that arching bridge, and they encountered local law enforcement officers. The group of officers and some others drove the marchers back across the bridge in a violent episode and series of actions over the next few minutes. They were pushed back the equivalent of several blocks over the bridge and then back to the church.

The activity was chaotic. They had billy clubs, tear gas. Most of us are familiar with the tragic story. That Sunday now has become known, since that time, as Bloody Sunday, and thus today is the 40th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. That Bloody Sunday earned, appropriately, national attention. And much of what happened in terms of the evolution of the civil rights movement, reaching that huge landmark on August 6, 1965, when President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, was realized.

Just a couple of comments about the course of the day. Again, it was a large bipartisan delegation of House and Senate Members. We arrived in Selma early yesterday morning and visited two of the museums there. We then went to the church service at the historic Brown Chapel AME, African Methodist Episcopal, Church.

I had the opportunity to visit and worship in that church before, but yesterday it captured me. The church itself was packed. It is a historic church, and there is a large balcony in the back and balconies on either side.

As our delegation, which was probably 40 or 50 House and Senate Members, crowded in with another several