

SENATE—Monday, June 2, 2008

The Senate met at 2:01 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain CDR Buck Underwood, U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father, we look to You as the author of truth, knowing that in You nothing is hidden. We thank You that we live under Your grace and mercy. We pray for our lawmakers and the entire Senate family, asking that You send the spirit of truth, that truth might be spoken in love, and that the works of their hands and the words of their mouths might honor You. Bless those You have raised up and placed in this body.

Thank You, Father, for blessing our Nation with abundant life, health, and resources which enable us to bless the entire world. Allow wisdom to prevail, that our Senators may be good stewards of Your blessings now and in the years ahead. Guide and equip the Members of this great institution so they may govern and live with integrity and honor.

With respect to all faiths present, I pray in the Name of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 2, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE

AMENDMENT NO. 4820, AS MODIFIED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 4820 be modified with the changes at the desk, notwithstanding passage of S. 2062.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4820), as modified, is as follows:

On page 15, line 8, insert "the demonstration program under" after "guarantees under".

On page 19, strike lines 1 through 13 and insert the following:

"(c) APPLICABILITY.—The provisions of paragraph (2) of subsection (a) regarding binding commitments for the remaining useful life of property shall not apply to a family or household member who subsequently takes ownership of a homeownership unit."

On page 22, line 9, insert "in accordance with section 202" after "infrastructure".

On page 29, strike line 18 and insert the following:

"(iv) any other legal impediment.

"(E) Subparagraphs (A) through (D) shall not apply to any claim arising from a formula current assisted stock calculation or count involving an Indian housing block grant allocation for any fiscal year through fiscal year 2008, if a civil action relating to the claim is filed by not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this subparagraph."

On page 32, strike line 18 and insert the following:

"(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), to the extent and in such

On page 33, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

"(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may guarantee, or make commitments to guarantee, under paragraph (1) the notes or obligations of not more than 4 Indian tribes or tribally designated housing entities located in each Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Native American Programs region.

On page 36, line 12, strike "shall" and insert "may".

On page 37, lines 5 and 6, strike "such sums as are necessary" and insert "\$1,000,000".

Beginning on page 39, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 41, line 14.

Beginning on page 42, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 43, line 21.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today there will be a period of morning business

following the remarks of Senator MCCONNELL and myself. Following morning business, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to S. 3036, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I now ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3036 following morning business, the time until 4:30 be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under a previous order, the time from 4:30 to 5:30 is equally divided. At 5:30, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the climate change legislation.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

CLIMATE SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I very much appreciate that the majority leader has generously allowed me to go ahead and make my remarks because I have a meeting.

Having spent most of the past week in Kentucky, I can say with a pretty high level of confidence that the single most important issue to the people of my State is the fact that they are paying about twice as much for a gallon of gasoline as they were at this time last year. I am also fairly confident that Kentuckians aren't alone in their frustration. Gas prices are, without a doubt, the single most pressing issue for Americans at this moment. That is why it is so hard to comprehend the majority's decision to move to a bill at the start of the summer driving season that would raise the price of gas by as much as \$1.40 a gallon, home electricity bills by 44 percent, and natural gas prices by about 20 percent.