



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1995

No. 145

Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, September 5, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, we begin the work of this week with the affirmation of the psalmist, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices."—Psalm 28:7. Thank You for the joy we experience when we receive Your unqualified grace and unlimited goodness. Your joy is so much more than mere happiness that is dependent on circumstances and the attitudes of others. When we allow You to fill us with Your love, an artesian joy floods our minds and hearts. We remember times when we trusted You and You helped us, and joy bursts within us. With Your joy we can face difficulties, deal with impossible situations, and endure the most frustrating problems. You are the source of our strength for the tasks of this day, wisdom for the decisions of this week, and encouragement for the challenges ahead of us. You know what we need before we ask You, and You guide us to ask for what is Your will for us. May the joy we experience with You radiate on our faces and be expressed in our attitudes. This is the day You have made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. In the name of our Lord, who brought us joy. Amen.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Good morning, Mr. President. On behalf of the leader,

and for the information of all Senators, this morning there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m.

Immediately following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 1976, the Agriculture Appropriations bill.

The majority leader has indicated that Senators are expected to offer their amendments to the bill. However, no rollcall votes will occur before 5:15 p.m. today.

Members are also alerted that the Senate will complete action on the welfare reform bill tomorrow, with rollcall votes on the welfare reform bill beginning at approximately 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

MORNING BUSINESS

The 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 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

AN INVASION OF PRIVACY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to speak this morning relative to an incident that occurred last Tuesday, and I think, if I recall correctly, the senior Senator from West Virginia also had such an incident which, to me, amounted to a certain invasion of privacy.

Last Tuesday, Mr. President, I was leaving my home to walk to my car and, as I rounded the corner, a neighbor asked me why someone was videotaping our block. I smiled at her and said, "Well, I have no idea." As I came around the corner, I was confronted by a news crew from an organization called "A Current Affair." As I attempted to walk toward my car, I found that there was a request for an

interview. I said, "We have a number of votes and I am sorry, but I have to go to work." As I proceeded to walk toward my car, I was confronted not only with the microphone and a cameraman, but somebody carrying the cord and a couple of other people and, I assume, a director.

I said, "I am sorry, but if you want an interview I would be happy to accommodate you at my office."

Well, as I began to get closer and closer to the car, I finally became aware that there was a question that was forthcoming, and it was, "Why have you voted against the highway bill?" I said, "You have the wrong Senator. I have no jurisdiction over highways. You must want somebody else." I was thinking of TRENT LOTT who lives next door. But clearly they were not after TRENT LOTT; they were after me.

The next question was, "Senator, why did you vote against the highway funding legislation and vote for logging roads?" I responded by saying, "You really do not know anything about logging roads," and I went to my car and I closed the door and they said, "Well, you have some stock in one of the logging companies in Alaska." I responded by saying, "No, I do not have that stock," closed the door and backed out.

Then I found that later on in the day this organization from "A Current Affair" had contacted my stockbroker after we had released a public statement, and I will have that printed in the RECORD, relative to the disposal of some of my holdings in natural resource stocks.

They had the gall to suggest that perhaps my broker had predated or backdated the letter, indicating the actual date on which I sold my stock.

Now, Mr. President, we are all victims of living in a glasshouse in our particular business, but I find this kind of activity a personal affront to my own integrity and my own personal affairs.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S13677

Nevertheless, I think that we are all subject to this kind of harassment from time to time, but I did want the RECORD to note the circumstances surrounding this particular event.

As a consequence, Mr. President, of allegations concerning private holdings that I have had in various resource companies that I have held for a number of years—some for as many as 40 years have been held in my family—and criticism associated with that, when I first came to this body I declared all my personal holdings.

There was criticism from some that I should sell those holdings because I did have small amounts in organizations such as Chevron Corp., James River, Louisiana Pacific, RTZ, Champion International.

Then I moved the shares into a blind trust, Mr. President, and moved my assets into a blind trust. Then I was criticized for hiding my assets.

Again, after a short period of time, having placed my assets in a blind trust, I released them and have publicly disclosed all of them ever since.

As a consequence, Mr. President, I have absolutely nothing to hide about my personal investments. I try to invest in my home State of Alaska, developing resources and creating jobs. I think that is probably the best evidence of my commitment to my State of Alaska.

All my interests are disclosed publicly, and the fact that a producer from "A Current Affair" thinks they bear some kind of additional public disclosure, why, they are certainly welcome to that conclusion.

The bottom line, evidently, Mr. President, is that "A Current Affair" intends to do some kind of exposé on logging in my State. I have had my press secretary cooperating with them, giving them the names of knowledgeable people in Alaska and Sitka, Ketchikan that they can contact with regard to the specifics of any question regarding logging in our State on public lands.

Mr. President, for the RECORD I supply a statement from my broker to be printed in the RECORD dated July 20, 1995, verifying the following securities were sold on July 17, 1995, covering Champion International, Chevron Corp., James River, Louisiana Pacific, and RTZ. The value of those stocks at the time they were sold was \$57,272.89.

I also ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD that these stock holdings were sold 4 days prior to the introduction of legislation covering the Southeast Alaska Jobs and Community Protection Act which proposes to expand the timber harvest in the Tongass National Forest. These were done prior to any substantive action occurring on the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil exploration development or before my committee, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, subsequently took up the debate on the mining reform legislation.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LEGG MASON WOOD WALKER, INC.,
Alexandria, VA, July 20, 1995.

Re Account number, name of Frank H. Murkowski and Nancy G. Murkowski.

Senator FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Washington DC.

DEAR SENATOR MURKOWSKI: This is to verify that the following securities were sold on July 17, 1995 from the above account.

Security	Shares	Amount
Champion Intl Corp	100	\$5,638.30
Chevron Corp	324	15,307.79
James River Corp	395	10,532.13
Louisiana Pacific	750	20,068.87
RTZ Corp PLC ADR	100	5,725.80
Total		57,272.89

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE D. BERBERIAN,
Vice President, Investments Retirement
Plan Consultant.

MURKOWSKI VERIFIES HE SOLD ALL NATURAL
RESOURCE STOCKHOLDINGS BEFORE INTRO-
DUCING TONGASS BILL

WASHINGTON.—In response to a request from one of the tabloid TV programs, A Current Affair, Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski today released proof that he announced more than a month ago, that he had sold all of his stock in natural resource firms before introducing forestry-related legislation concerning the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska.

Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, July 17 sold all of his stock holdings in five companies that deal with natural resource issues: one energy company, three timber-related companies, (only one having operations in Alaska) and one mining company. The sale came four days before Murkowski introduced the Southeast Alaska Jobs and Community Protection Act and before any substantive action occurred on either opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration/development or before his committee substantively took up debate of mining reform legislation.

"I've never been asked before in a cordial fashion whether I sold my stock in all these companies. Since I have now been asked, the answer is yes I did months ago to prevent ridiculous media speculation from interfering with substantive debate over a number of vital national resource policy issues," said Murkowski.

"Normally I would follow proper Senate procedures and not unveil my stock transactions, until my annual May financial disclosure statement. But given the level of unresearched and incorrect media reports this summer, it probably is better to release this information now," said Murkowski, who added that these sales in no way lessen his commitment to invest in Alaska-related firms whenever possible.

"My goal still is to invest in companies that provide jobs and make investments in Alaska. That is what I can do as an individual to help Alaska's economy and the creation of jobs which always has been my guiding investment principle," said Murkowski.

Murkowski has responded repeatedly through his press office to a producer from the program A Current Affair giving them the appropriate contacts in Alaska so they can gain factual comments on the Tongass. The Senator announced in Sitka Aug. 12 and Ketchikan Aug. 13 that he had disposed of some stock. Today, Murkowski released to the public the same information he gave to the program to confirm that the sales took

place before he introduced the Tongass legislation.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. To make a long story short, Mr. President, I no longer hold any resource development-type stocks in my personal portfolio and feel that I have acted appropriately with regard to full disclosure on my personal assets. I believe that there is no conflict of any kind other than the effort to proceed with responsible development in my State of Alaska relative to jobs, the economy, and the economic contribution Alaska can make as a resource-rich State to our overall economy in this Nation.

I am proud of my personal efforts to abide by the Senate rules and the rules of disclosure. Again, I somewhat resent being ambushed on my way to work last Tuesday.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded. I will speak as in morning business for 4 or 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REIMBURSING MEMBERS' COSTS AT CHARITABLE EVENTS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, sometimes this body resembles, at least to me, perhaps "The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight." Let me share an example from Alaska relating to Senate passage of new restrictions on the acceptance of gifts by Senators, which was recently adopted by this body.

In crafting this new rule, we were certainly shooting at the Senate's past practices, where some Members inappropriately did accept gifts from lobbyists. Unfortunately, the target that we actually hit with our shots were the charities that had committed absolutely no wrongdoings, unless trying to raise money from time to time for the needy is now, somehow, inappropriate in this body.

First, let me make it clear that I fully support the new rule limiting gifts to Senators from any one source to \$100 and making all gifts over \$10—whether they be lunch or a fruit basket—count against the limit. Through that limit, the Senate has gone a long way to end the public perception that lawmakers give special favors to those who take us to lunch or take us to dinner or whatever.

But the new rule contains a glaring inconsistency and a level of hypocrisy that leaves a sour taste in my mouth. The chief problem is that under the measure we now have adopted, private parties would not be able to reimburse Members for the costs of transportation and lodging to a charitable event. But Senators still would be permitted to be privately reimbursed if