



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1995

No. 157

Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, October 10, 1995)

The Senate met at 10:15 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In the absence of the Chaplain, we will have a short prayer, which I will read.

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and Lord of our lives, we trust in You. This Senate is constituted with the fundamental conviction that You govern the affairs of this Nation. The women and men of this Senate have been called to their responsibilities by You through the voice of the people of their States. They are here by Your appointment.

Now, in this sacred moment of prayer, we acknowledge our total dependence on You for the endowment of the gifts of wisdom and discernment for the discussions, debates, and decisions of this day. Here are our minds; think through them. Here are our wills; guide us to do Your will. Here are our hearts; set them aflame with renewed patriotism and deeper commitment. We press on to the challenges of this day, dedicated to work diligently for Your glory. Dear God, bless America, and to that end, bless the deliberations of this Senate today. In Your holy name. Amen.

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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 11, 1995.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, Section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). The Senator from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, this morning, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 11:30 a.m. At that time, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 143, the Workforce Development Act. Approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes remain for debate on the bill, with several amendments remaining in order to the bill under the unanimous-consent agreement. Rollcall votes can, therefore, be expected throughout the day. The majority leader has indicated that the Senate is expected to complete action on S. 143 today and it is, therefore, possible that the Senate may begin consideration of the State Department reorganization bill, S. 908, during today's session.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the

hour of 11:30, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

NEEDLESS DIVISIONS IN OUR COUNTRY

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I just came from the ceremony held in the House Chamber. It was a marvelous ceremony, and I want to thank Senator THURMOND and Congressman SPENCE for putting it together.

Our colleague from Hawaii, Senator INOUE, said something that I think is significant for this body and for the other. He said, "You do not need to look to Los Angeles to see needless divisions in our country." He said, "You can look right here at the House and the Senate."

I think that is true. Each of us is partisan. I am proud to be a Democrat. Other colleagues are proud to be Republicans. But when we come here, sure, let us have differing opinions, but the excessive partisanship that is here, I think, discourages this country about our process. I think it harms both parties, and I think there is nothing finer that we could do at this point than to listen to our colleague, Senator INOUE—in both political parties; I am not suggesting either one is better on this. We can work together more.

As I leave this body at the end of next year, my greatest regret is that I have seen this body deteriorate gradually over the years and become more and more partisan. That has not helped the American public. That has not helped the two-party system.

I see my colleague from Wyoming. He is going to seek the floor.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

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



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