



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1996

No. 49

Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Gracious Father, we are dependent on You for everything. We could not breathe a breath, think a thought, move a muscle, work a day, or develop our lives without Your moment-by-moment provision. We place our finger on our pulse; thank You for the gift of life. We breathe in, saying "Bless the Lord, O my soul"; and breathe out saying, "And all that is within me bless His holy name."

We list all that is ours from Your loving provision. We praise You for food, our physical bodies, people in our lives, the opportunities and challenges of today. We want to make this a day for constant and consistent conversation with You in which we repeatedly say thank You, Lord, for the abundant mercies that You give us in a never-ending flow of goodness.

You know that a thankful heart is not just the greatest virtue, but You have made it the parent of all virtues and the source of the transformation of our attitudes. Every virtue devoid of thankfulness is maimed and limps along the spiritual road. With everything that is within us, we thank You. May this be a day for constant thanksgiving for the privilege of life. In Your holy name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, there will be a period for morning business until 10 a.m., with Senator LEAHY to speak for up to 10 minutes, Senator GRAMM

for up to 20 minutes, and Senator GRAMS for up to 10 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the terrorism prevention conference report. Under the order, motions to recommit are in order and limited to 30 minutes of debate each. Senators can expect rollcall votes on or in relation to those motions prior to a vote on adoption of the conference report.

Following adoption of the conference report, there will be 60 minutes of debate prior to the vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the Whitewater resolution. It is still possible we might consider the immigration bill today if we can get an understanding about relevant amendments. It is very important legislation and broadly supported by the American people. We would like to complete action on that and then move to the Kassebaum-Kennedy health care measure yet this week and complete action on that. That may or may not be possible, but we will do our best.

IN TRIBUTE TO SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RONALD H. BROWN AND OTHER AMERICANS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of Senate Resolution 241.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 241) in tribute to Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown and other Americans who lost their lives on April 3, 1996, while in service to their country on a mission to Bosnia.

The Senate resumed consideration of the resolution.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, Chaplain Ogilvie said it best Monday in his prayer marking the Senate's return after a 2-week recess when he said: "Our hearts are still at half-mast."

Like all Senators, I was saddened by the tragic April 3 airplane accident that led to the loss of Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and 32 other Government and business leaders.

I was not privileged to know Secretary Brown as well as many of my colleagues, but in my dealings with him, I was impressed by his professionalism, his wit, and his ability to get things done.

The outpouring of emotion that followed his death is testimony to the fact that not only was Secretary Brown an outstanding public servant, he was also an outstanding friend who touched many lives through his generosity.

The 32 other Americans lost in the accident were also friends, parents, sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters.

And I know I speak for all the Senate in saying that our thoughts and prayers remain with the Brown family, and with the families and friends of all the victims of this tragedy.

Mr. President, on Monday, at the request of the Democrat leader and myself, Senate Resolution 241, honoring Secretary Brown and the 32 other Americans who died in the accident, was read for the information of the Senate.

I want to thank Senator LOTT for his cooperation.

At this time, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate Resolution 241 and the preamble be agreed to.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 241) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 241

Whereas, Ronald H. Brown served the United States of America with patriotism and

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3417

skill as a soldier, a civil rights leader, and an attorney;

Whereas, Ronald H. Brown served since January 22, 1993, as the United States Secretary of Commerce;

Whereas, Ronald H. Brown devoted his life to opening doors, building bridges, and helping those in need;

Whereas, Ronald H. Brown lost his life in a tragic airplane accident on April 3, 1996, while in service to his country on a mission in Bosnia; and

Whereas, thirty-two other Americans from Government and industry who served the Nation with great courage, achievement, and dedication also lost their lives in the accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the United States pays tribute to the remarkable life and career of Ronald H. Brown, and it extends condolences to his family.

SEC. 2. The Senate also pays tribute to the contributions of all those who perished, and extends condolences to the families of: Staff Sergeant Gerald Aldrich, Duane Christian, Barry Conrad, Paul Cushman III, Adam Darling, Captain Ashley James Davis, Gail Dobert, Robert Donovan, Claudio Elia, Staff Sergeant Robert Farrington, Jr., David Ford, Carol Hamilton, Kathryn Hoffman, Lee Jackson, Steven Kaminski, Kathryn Kellogg, Technical Sergeant Shelley Kelly, James Lewek, Frank Maier, Charles Meissner, William Morton, Walter Murphy, Lawrence Payne, Nathaniel Nash, Leonard Pieroni, Captain Timothy Schafer, John Scoville, I. Donald Turner, P. Stuart Tholan, Technical Sergeant Cheryl Ann Turnage, Naomi Warbasse, and Robert Whittaker.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to each of the families.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be the period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. GRAMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

EXTREMISM: THE MANTRA OF THE MINORITY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, if there is 1 day that dramatically highlights the growing anxieties of middle-class Americans, it is April 15. During this tax week of 1996, I want to share some thoughts on taxes, Congress, and a certain word that has crept into a place of prominence here on Capitol Hill.

Since the opening days of the 104th Congress, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have come to the floor repeatedly to talk of "extremism" and "extremists."

These are not words to be tossed around lightly, and yet more than 100

times over the past 16 months, those are the very words they have used to describe the work of this Congress. "Extremist" has become the mantra of the minority, repeated over and over when all the arguments have been exhausted and refuted, and name calling is all that remains.

The Contract With America "is simply the wish list of the extreme faction of one political party," says one.

"The sweeping and extremist approach in this bill poses a grave threat to all Americans, especially children," says another.

And finally, "If moderation does not prevail, this level of extremism will ultimately take our country backward, not forward, and the damage will be felt not by us, but by generations to come."

Of course, the rhetoric has not been confined to this Chamber alone, or to the other body. The Clinton administration, and particularly the President and Vice President, have repeatedly engaged in it as well, as they recite from the pages of this well-worn script. In just seven news conferences and speeches last year, Vice President GORE used some version of the word "extremist" 22 times in describing our efforts to reform the way Government undertakes the people's business.

"Extremist groups."

"Extremist measures."

"Extremist factions."

"The extremist, radical members of their caucus."

"An extremist set of priorities."

"An extremist agenda."

You would think from all the dramatics that something truly horrible is going here. So, Mr. President, what's happening that has my Democrat colleagues running so scared? What is Congress doing that is so radical, so dangerous, so wrong, so extreme?

Here are the shocking highlights:

We accomplished what a quarter century of Congresses couldn't when we balanced the Federal budget. This Congress is not willing to let our children and grandchildren collapse under a load of debt that we have created.

We have taken responsible steps to control spending, reining in the Federal Government and reducing its role as the dominating force in American life.

Working families would keep billions of their own money under the tax plan passed by Congress. We offered families a \$500 tax credit for each child, eliminated the marriage penalty that discriminated against married couples, and helped bring and keep families together through adoption and elderly care tax credits.

We are also not willing to sit by and let Medicare dissolve into bankruptcy. Under legislation passed by this Congress, seniors would be assured that Medicare—for some, their only link to health care insurance—would be rescued from its impending insolvency.

Our plan to reform the welfare system encourages recipients to seek a

life beyond their monthly welfare checks, while it protects the American taxpayers from the abuses of the past.

Mr. President, have my colleagues across the aisle become so insulated from the public and isolated from reality that they have forgotten what qualifies as extreme out in the real world? Our work on behalf of the Nation's families, taxpayers, senior citizens, children, and job providers could hardly be considered extreme. Far from it—what we have accomplished is exactly what the American people sent us here to carry out.

So how do you think it makes them feel to see their dreams for the Nation dismissed on the Senate floor as the notions of extremists?

If you really want to talk about extremism, there is a good reason why so many American families have April 15 circled on that calendar taped to the refrigerator door. They have experienced extremism in their Government right where it hurts the most—the family wallet—and they are reminded of that fact every year when tax day rolls around.

Under the current administration, Americans are paying more in Federal taxes this year than they have ever paid before.

President Clinton started the trend with his recordbreaking \$241 billion tax hike in 1993, which raised taxes on every member of the middle class. Add to that the new taxes imposed by the President in his latest budget, and Americans will be paying a half trillion more in taxes than we did before President Clinton took office. That is an additional \$758 every year, for the next 10 years, for every taxpayer in this country.

The American people say that is extreme.

The tax load has become such a burden that Tax Freedom Day—the day we are no longer working just to pay our taxes and can begin keeping that money for ourselves—will not arrive this year until May 7. That is the latest ever. It means working Americans have been on the job from January 1 through today, and have not been allowed to keep even a dime of their own money. That will not happen for another 20 days.

And by the way, families in my home State of Minnesota will have to wait even longer. Because State taxes in Minnesota are higher than the national average, my constituents are forced to hold out an additional 8 days until their Tax Freedom Day arrives.

And the calculations for Tax Freedom Day do not include the additional days we are forced to work to cover the heavy costs of Washington's unnecessary and burdensome regulations as well. If it did, we would not be marking our freedom until the first week of July. That is a cruel joke, considering that is when we are also celebrating Independence Day.

The American people say that is extreme.