



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1997

No. 93

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1997

The Senate met at 9 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:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation, Lord of our lives and Author of the liberties we enjoy as citizens, may this Fourth of July week of recess be a time of renewal of our commitment to you as leaders of our Nation. May Independence Day really be a dependence day for us and our fellow Americans as we express our total dependence on You. We want our observance to be more than picnics, firecrackers, and parades. As we celebrate the birth of our Nation, we want to reaffirm the vision for America you planted in our Founding Fathers and Mothers, as well as the unique role You have given this Nation as a demonstration of democracy.

When we say the words, "One Nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, may it be a fresh dedication to work for righteousness and justice in every aspect of society. We confess what contradicts our declaration of dependence on You. We reflect on our secularized society that gives little thought to You. Our motto is "In God We Trust" and yet, our trust often is placed in materialism and scientific humanism. We repent and ask Your forgiveness.

Dear God, You have answered the prayers of Your people in the crises of our history. Today, we pray for a spiritual awakening to spread across the land. We know that only what has happened to us can happen through us. So

begin the awakening here in the Senate, in each Senator and in all of us who work with them. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Delaware, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. 949, the Tax Relief Act of 1997, and begin another lengthy series of rollcall votes. As previously ordered, the series of stacked rollcall votes will begin on or in relation to the Nickles amendment, followed by the Gramm amendment and the Kerry amendment. Following the disposition of the aforementioned stacked votes, the Senate will proceed to a vote on a number of process amendments under the control of Senator DOMENICI. After those amendments have been disposed of, Senators will have the right to offer an amendment to the bill, with 2 minutes of debate equally divided on the proposed amendment.

However, it is hoped, and I would like to emphasize, that Members will refrain from offering amendments so that the Senate may complete action on this bill at a reasonable time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The Senator from New York.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Can I simply endorse my revered chairman's judgment? We have had a good debate. We have a good bill, a bipartisan bill. The prospects of any serious change are not large. The prospect of any serious attention to new proposals are not great—not today. The Senate is a continuing body and we will continue to discuss matters, but today is the time for closing out this legislation so we can go to conference and send a bill to the President.

Mr. ROTH. What is the order of business?

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. ROTH. I yield.

Mr. KENNEDY. After the process amendment, there may be an amendment offered on the Republican side. We are prepared to move ahead to get on the list; would that be agreeable? Can I ask consent, after the sequencing, there may be an amendment on the Republican side and we could have consideration?

Mr. ROTH. I say to the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, we have you on the list for three separate amendments.

Mr. KENNEDY. Just one amendment.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. That is the spirit.

Mr. ROTH. I say to the distinguished Senator and to my colleague, Senator MOYNIHAN, that we have a list of both Republican and Democrat amendments. They are set in a particular order. We do intend to go from one side to the other side.

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



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Mr. MOYNIHAN. May I just ask in terms of who appears and asks for recognition, the first three pending amendments are, in fact, stacked?

Mr. ROTH. That is correct.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. The rest are just amendments that may be offered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment of the Senator from Massachusetts will follow the process.

Mr. MCCAIN. Reserving the right to object, I ask a question of the Senator from Delaware. Will there be a unanimous-consent agreement propounded of some list of priority of these amendments so that the Senators will know when their amendment will be considered?

Mr. ROTH. I say to my distinguished friend from Arizona we could set such a list. I thought at the beginning we would move informally, but as time proceeds we will try to set a list.

Mr. MCCAIN. Further reserving the right to object, we all know, as the day wears on, there will be increasing pressures because of the departure as articulated by my friend from Nevada last night, so it is of some interest as to which priority, after the initial amendments that were agreed to last night, will be considered.

I ask both the Democrat leader and the managers, both managers of the bill, if we could have some predictability associated with that.

I remove my objection.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, these amendments have been around for some time, and I would think there would have already been a sequence of priorities. This proposal ought not to be muscling around here.

Mr. ROTH. I say to the distinguished Senator we do have a sequence of amendments and we intend to go down the sequence of amendments from Democrat to Republican.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

REVENUE RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of Senate bill 949, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 949) to provide revenue reconciliation pursuant to section 104(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Dorgan amendment No. 515, to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to abate the accrual of interest on income tax underpayments by taxpayers located in Presidentially declared disaster areas if the Secretary ex-

tends the time for filing returns and payment of tax (and waives any penalties relating to the failure to so file or so pay) for such taxpayers.

Dorgan Amendment No. 516, to provide tax relief for taxpayers located in Presidentially declared disaster areas.

Jeffords amendment No. 522, to provide for a trust fund for District of Columbia school renovations.

Domenici-Lautenberg amendment No. 537, to implement the enforcement provisions of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, enforce the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, extend the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 through fiscal year 2002, and make technical and conforming changes to the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Biden amendment No. 539 (to amendment No. 537), to provide for the transfer of funds from the general fund to the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund.

Nickles modified amendment No. 551, to provide for an increase in deduction for health insurance costs of self-employed individuals, and to modify rules for allocating interest expense to tax-exempt interest.

Gramm amendment No. 552, to allow families to decide for themselves how best to use their child tax credit.

Kerry amendment No. 554, to allow payroll taxes to be included in the calculation of tax liability for receiving the children's tax credit.

AMENDMENT NO. 551, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is the Nickles amendment No. 551, with 2 minutes equally divided for debate.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, on behalf of myself, Senator HAGEL, Senator ABRAHAM, Senator DOMENICI, and others, the amendment that we proposed last night we have modified. We did receive some requests from Senators to delete the provision that dealt with corporate deductibility of tax exemptions. That was not a major portion of the amendment. We did delete that.

I might mention I think it is a good provision. It is a provision that is in the House bill, so it will be in conference.

Mr. President, this amendment accelerates self-employed deductibility for insurance. It allows self-employed individuals to be able to deduct a greater proportion of their health insurance needs. It increases it. For example, in 1997, current law is 40 percent; it increases it to 50 percent. In 1999 it increases it to 60 percent. And so on.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. KERREY. I am not in opposition, but with the 2-percent provision stricken, I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor to this amendment.

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

Mr. NICKLES. I also ask unanimous consent that Senator THURMOND be added as a cosponsor.

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

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS] is necessarily absent.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 138 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Abraham	Faircloth	Lieberman
Akaka	Feingold	Lott
Allard	Feinstein	Lugar
Ashcroft	Ford	Mack
Baucus	Frist	McCain
Bennett	Glenn	McConnell
Biden	Gorton	Mikulski
Bingaman	Graham	Moynihan
Bond	Gramm	Murkowski
Boxer	Grams	Murray
Breaux	Grassley	Nickles
Brownback	Gregg	Reed
Bryan	Hagel	Reid
Bumpers	Harkin	Robb
Burns	Hatch	Rockefeller
Byrd	Helms	Roth
Campbell	Hollings	Santorum
Chafee	Hutchinson	Sarbanes
Cleland	Hutchison	Sessions
Coats	Inhofe	Shelby
Cochran	Inouye	Smith (NH)
Collins	Jeffords	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Johnson	Snowe
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Specter
Craig	Kennedy	Stevens
D'Amato	Kerrey	Thomas
Daschle	Kerry	Thompson
DeWine	Kohl	Thurmond
Dodd	Kyl	Torricelli
Domenici	Landrieu	Warner
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Durbin	Leahy	Wyden
Enzi	Levin	

NOT VOTING—2

Moseley-Braun Roberts

The amendment (No. 551), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in sequence be limited to 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, is this going to be a real 10 minutes?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I can respond to that question. I was just fixing to say that the 10 minutes be strictly enforced. Please don't leave the Chamber. We just had a couple of Senators that didn't make that vote because it had been beyond the normal time. When the 10 minutes is up we are going to turn it in.