



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2000

No. 47

## Senate

The Senate met at 10:32 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Rev. Donald J. Harp, Jr., Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA.

We are glad to have you with us.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Rev. Donald J. Harp, Jr., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, for this land of beauty and plenty, we offer our words of thanksgiving. For elected leaders who place the good of all above the wishes of a few, we offer our words of thanksgiving. For our citizens who offer thoughtful words of affirmation versus random words of criticism, we offer words of thanksgiving. Intercede, O God, with Your wisdom, in the decisions of this body. Grant wisdom, compassion, and vision, that decisions shall be based on truth, honesty, and fairness for all of our citizens. Bless, we pray, our executive branch, our Congress, and our judicial system with the gift of Your compassion for humanity as decisions are made. We pray in Thy holy name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

### WELCOME TO REV. DON HARP

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I am very honored to host Reverend Don

Harp of Atlanta as the guest Chaplain in the Senate today.

Reverend Harp was born in Fayette County, GA, and graduated from Fayette County High School.

He attended Young Harris Junior College before receiving his BA degree from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL. Reverend Harp then went on to earn his masters degree in divinity from Emory University in Atlanta, and his doctorate from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

He has served on the Carrollton, Georgia City Council, Mayor Bill Campbell's Atlanta Advisory Committee, and the President's Advisory Council of Oglethorpe University.

He has received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award from Brenau College in Gainesville, GA, and was a delegate to both the General and Southeastern Conferences of the United Methodist Church.

Reverend Harp has been a good friend and pillar of support for me over the years. As Tagore once said, "Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark."

Reverend Harp taught me that faith in God sometimes requires strength, but God gives back that strength many times over.

I am proud to welcome my distinguished friend to the United States Senate today.

### RECOGNITION OF ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. with the time until 12:30 p.m. for general statements and bill introductions. At 12:30 debate regarding the marriage tax penalty will occur prior to the cloture vote

scheduled to occur at 2 p.m. Senators should be aware that if cloture is not invoked on the substitute, there will be a second cloture vote on the underlying measure. Therefore, there could be up to two votes at 2 p.m. Following the votes, the Senate is expected to consider the budget resolution conference report with a final vote expected this evening. I thank my colleagues for their attention.

### 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 a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each. Under the previous order, the time between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Idaho, Mr. CRAPO, or his designee.

The Senator from Georgia.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1838

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1838) to assist in the enhancement of the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

Mr. CRAPO. I object to further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

(The remarks of Mr. CRAPO and Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire pertaining to the introduction of S. 2417 are printed

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2647

in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time assigned to the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. HUTCHINSON, be given to me at this time.

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

#### FIGHTING DRUGS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the issue of how we are fighting drugs in this country—specifically, the President's initiative relative to the country of Colombia in relation to our own initiatives on the southern border of our country.

I have the privilege to chair the committee that funds the INS, which includes the Border Patrol, DEA, the department of drug enforcement; and the judiciary. All three agencies, of course, of our Government have a significant role in the issue of drug enforcement and especially as it affects our southern border.

The President has asked for \$1.6 billion of new money—he has asked for it in an emergency format—to be sent to the country of Colombia, in order for Colombia to fight drugs and the production of drugs. That may well be a reasonable request. I have reservations on its substance, but I also have serious reservations as to its appropriateness in the context of the drug war that we as a Nation face. The reason is simple. When the President sent a budget up to address the agencies that are responsible in our Government to fight drugs, he did not fully fund their needs. He underfunded the needs of the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA; he underfunded the needs of the INS and Border Patrol; he underfunded the needs of the judiciary, which enforces the law.

I have made a little chart here that reflects a comparison. The unfunded capital—I am talking about capital needs, one-time items, which involve the construction or technology and needs of these different agencies, the INS, DEA, and the judiciary. The unfunded requests of these agencies represented about \$1.8 billion—a little bit more than \$1.8 billion. Compare that with the fact that the President is willing to fund almost \$800 million—million, not billion—of capital needs for Colombia.

Let's do a little review of this because I think it is important for people to understand what happened. Essentially, what the President is saying is that the capital needs of Colombia are more important than the needs of our own drug enforcement agencies here in the United States. For example, the President has requested 15 Huey helicopters for Colombia and 30 Blackhawk

helicopters. They are the most advanced helicopters we have in our fleet. Thirty Blackhawk helicopters will cost approximately \$388 million. Let me tell you, those 30 helicopters, along with the 15 Hueys, are going to go to Colombia.

Let me tell you what the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Border Patrol have to fly on our borders in order to interdict drugs. They fly old Vietnam-era helicopters. They aren't safe. In fact, many of them have been grounded. The Army, in fact, grounded almost all of its Hueys. But that is what we are left with.

DEA and INS have both requested aircraft in order to patrol the borders. Those requests were not funded by this administration. Yet the administration turns around and is willing to give 30 Blackhawk helicopters to Colombia. Who knows what will happen to those helicopters. Who knows how they will be used. But I can assure you that the first call, I believe, on new helicopters for the purposes of the drug war should have gone to the departments which fight the drug war in the United States and which need them.

Another example: Night vision goggles. We are going to send \$2 million to Colombia to buy night vision goggles. Yet here in the United States, the Border Patrol and DEA are short on those materials. In fact, the Border Patrol is woefully short on night vision goggles, on pocket scopes, on fiber-optic scopes, on hand-held searchlights—all of these items the Border Patrol asked for and were not funded in this budget by the President.

Yet the President has been willing to find the money, or suggested that we should find the money, to send not only night vision goggles but ground-based radar systems, secure communications systems, signal intelligence gathering systems, computers, and installation of sensor sights for aircraft. All of these items they have suggested we send to Colombia.

In addition, they have suggested that we actually construct facilities for Colombia to the tune of approximately \$49 million—physical buildings.

Let me tell you, both the INS and the DEA need physical facilities. In fact, the Border Patrol is functioning out of extraordinarily crowded facilities. Many of the Border Patrol stations are grossly overcrowded. There is one site which is designed for 5 people with 125 people working out of it. There is another site where the Border Patrol is working out of an old Tastee Freeze building. I guess you can use an old Tastee Freeze building. It is sort of hard to handcuff a drug dealer to a Tastee Freeze machine.

The fact is we do not have the facilities which we need in order to adequately enforce our laws relative to drug dealers coming across the borders and drugs coming across the borders. We don't have the facilities to detain those people.

There is a detention need of approximately \$406 million. In other words, we

need \$406 million of construction in order to meet the potential detention needs for people illegally coming across the border, many of them drug dealers.

The judiciary has the same problem. There is a massive increase in the amount of caseload which the judiciary along the southern border has to handle. Five district courts on the southwest border now handle 26 percent of all the Federal criminal activity—26 percent of all the Federal criminal activity—and a great deal of that is drug related.

To put that in perspective, the remainder of the criminal activity in this country is handled by 89 other district courts. Five are handling 26 percent and 89 handle the rest. You can see how overworked those five courts are.

The border courts' basic caseload is four times that of the national average. Yet did the administration put money in to try to increase the capacity of those court systems to handle this wave of crime that is coming across the border, much of it drug-related? Absolutely not. There are no physical facilities in that area.

I put up another chart which is a little more stark explanation of some specific accounts.

For example, the aircraft needs along the southwest border, this is what was unfunded. This bar chart shows the unfunded needs for aircraft along our southwest border. This shows how much the administration is willing to spend for aircraft for Colombia. They are willing to spend three times what it would take in order to adequately monitor our own border with aircraft. They are willing to spend it in Colombia.

I have to say that I really doubt that aircraft in Colombia is going to end up doing the job. I do not know how it is going to be used. But I strongly suspect it is not going to be used very effectively if we look at the history of what has happened with our efforts outside this country in the area of crime enforcement. I suspect what we will end up with is some company in America making a heck of a lot of money because somebody will buy 30 Blackhawk helicopters and ship them to Colombia. That will be the end of it. That will be the last we hear of them.

But if the administration is willing to pay for the aircraft along the border, the use of those aircraft would be accountable to the American people. We would know whether those aircraft were being used correctly in law enforcement and drug enforcement. I can assure you that my experience with the Border Patrol and the DEA is they would be used correctly, and we would get a return for the dollars that are being spent.

It is not only in the capital areas that this administration has acted, in my opinion, with gross irresponsibility in their obligations to fight the drug war here in the United States, by funding the Colombian request but not