



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2000

No. 100

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Father Thomas Acker, president, Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, WV, will give the prayer. He is a guest of Senator BYRD.

We are glad to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Thomas Acker, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, from whom each of us comes and to whom each of us must return, we daily finger the coins of our realm. On each coin of this Republic is inscribed our invocation, our prayer, and our petition: "In God We Trust." "If You Yahweh, do not build the house, in vain the mason's toil: If You Yahweh, do not guard the city, in vain the sentry's watch."—Psalm 127. Even as we hold this prayerful coin in our fingers, we acknowledge that You hold us in the palm of Your hand. Lord, in You we trust.

We open this deliberative day of Senate life, this last Thursday of July, the month of our independence, assured that You watch over us; indeed, we are the apple of Your eye. Bring Your light to our deliberations, Your wisdom to our decisions, Your peace to our outcomes. May the seed that we plant be like the tiny mustard seed, growing strong of stem, bountiful in branches, and laden with good fruit.

The Senators, men and women of leadership, bow their heads before You, and ask Your blessing. Lord of the Universe, in both faith and humility, the Senators pray: Prosper the work of our hands, prosper the work of our hands. In God we trust. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROD GRAMS, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., for those Senators who wish to make final statements in remembrance of our former friend and colleague, Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

Following morning business, Senator designate Zell Miller will be sworn in to serve as United States Senator. After the ceremony and a few remarks, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the energy and water appropriations bill. At the conclusion of the vote, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany the Department of Defense appropriations bill, with a vote to occur at approximately 3:15 p.m. For the remainder of the day, the Senate is expected to begin postclosure debate on the motion to proceed to the energy and water appropriations bill.

It is hoped that a vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the PNTR China legislation can be moved to occur at a time to be determined during today's session. I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2940 AND S. 2941

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for their second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). The clerk will report the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2940) to authorize additional assistance for international malaria control, and to provide for coordination and consultation in providing assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 with respect to malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis.

A bill (S. 2941) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide meaningful campaign finance reform through requiring better reporting, decreasing the role of soft money, and increasing individual contribution limits, and for other purposes.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on these bills at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the rule, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from West Virginia.

GUEST CHAPLAIN FATHER THOMAS S. ACKER, S.J.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I commend the Senate's guest Chaplain today, Father Thomas S. Acker, S.J., for his eloquent prayer opening today's session of the United States Senate.

For the last 18 years, Fr. Acker has been serving as President of Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, West Virginia.

During that time, Wheeling Jesuit University has grown to become one of the leading universities in the State of West Virginia, and much of that growth is due to the insight and hard work of this Jesuit priest. During Fr. Acker's tenure at Wheeling Jesuit, the enrollment has doubled—doubled—and the number of buildings and square footage on campus has more than doubled. The addition of the Robert C. Byrd National Technology Transfer Center, the Erma Ora Byrd Center for Educational Technologies, and the Alan B. Mollohan Challenger Learning Center on campus places Wheeling Jesuit University in a unique position for growth into the 21st Century, which will begin next year, and has made a difference in the lives of the residents of West Virginia and beyond.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

Recently, Fr. Acker was presented, by Administrator Dan Goldin, with the Distinguished Public Service Medal of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, the highest honor given to a civilian from that agency. This award reflects the high confidence that NASA and its Administrator have in the stewardship of Fr. Acker in connection with agency programs administered—where? at Wheeling Jesuit University.

Fr. Acker, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, entered the Jesuit order in 1947. That was my first year in the West Virginia House of delegates. He has a Ph.D. in biology. I don't have a Ph.D. in anything. But I have grandsons who have Ph.D.s. I have two grandsons who have Ph.D.s in physics; not political science but physics. But Fr. Acker has a Ph.D. in Biology from Stanford University. He has taught at John Carroll University. He has taught at the University of Detroit. He has taught at San Francisco University. He has served as Dean of Arts and Sciences at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and worked in the country of Nepal, first as a Fulbright professor and then as Project Director of the U.S. Peace Corps.

Fr. Tom Acker's tenure as the President at Wheeling Jesuit University will end on Monday, July 31, 2000, the last year of the 20th century, but he will not be leaving the State of West Virginia. He has grown to love that State. Rather, he will remain in West Virginia, working in the southern sector to continue his great service to the great State of West Virginia.

I look forward to my continued relationship with this strong, competent, and compassionate man of the cloth, and I congratulate him on his decision to remain in West Virginia.

I listened carefully to his prayer today. He used the words, "In God We Trust." I was in the House of Representatives in 1954, on June 7, when the House of Representatives passed legislation to include the words "under God" in the pledge of allegiance—June 7, 1954; "under God." There are some people in this country who would like to take those words out of that pledge, but not Fr. Acker. I don't think anybody here in the Senate would be for that. That was June 7, 1954.

June 7, 1955, 1 year to the day, the House of Representatives voted to include the words "In God We Trust," to have those words, as the national motto, put on all coins and all currency of the United States. Those words were already on some of the coins, but on June 7, 1955, the House of Representatives voted to have the words "In God We Trust"—there they are—"In God We Trust," have that as the national motto and have those words on the coins and currency of the United States.

I was in the House on both occasions. I am the only person in Congress today who was in Congress when we voted to include the words "under God" in the

Pledge of Allegiance. I thank our visiting minister today for his use of those words.

He also used the same words from the scriptures that Benjamin Franklin used in the Constitutional Convention in 1787 when the clouds of dissension and despair held like a pall over the Constitutional Convention. Everything was about to break up. They were having a lot of dissension, I say to the Senator from Nevada and the Senator from Florida. They were not agreeing on very many things. They were very discouraged. But Benjamin Franklin stood to his feet and suggested there be prayer at the convention, and he used those scriptures in his statement:

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Thank you, Father Acker, for using those words and for having as the theme of your prayer this morning "In God We Trust." Thank you.

I thank our Chaplain also, and I thank you, again, Father Acker. We hope you will enjoy your work in southern West Virginia. We are privileged to have you in my part of the State finally, southern West Virginia. My part is the whole State. We thank you, and may God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the Senator from West Virginia and the visiting priest depart, I say to the man who runs this fine school in West Virginia—and I believe the Senator from Florida will say—what a treasure we have in the Senator from West Virginia.

Today is a day of solemnity in the Senate. We are going to swear in a new Senator as a result of the death of one of our colleagues. It is a day of reflection for all of us. Speaking for myself, and I am sure the Senator from Florida, every day we reflect on how fortunate we are to have someone who is a living example of the words that are engraved in the back of this Chamber: "In God We Trust." He is someone to whom we all look—both the minority and majority—for ethical standards, for a sense of morality that he brings to this body. I say to the priest from West Virginia, the State of West Virginia is well served and has been well served by Senator ROBERT BYRD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I, too, express my appreciation for the beautiful words of the Senator from West Virginia this morning. And to Father Acker: On behalf of the entire Senate, we welcome you today and appreciate greatly your words of prayer.

This is a special day for all of us, as the Senator from Nevada indicated. We will be swearing in a new Senator from Georgia. We do so with heavy hearts, however.

I seek recognition now for a few moments to say a few words on the life of

our colleague, Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, the distinguished Senator from Nevada, who has been very close to me for these several years in which we have served together in the Senate. I appreciate his friendship. I thank him for his good words today. I am grateful, flattered, and humbled by them. I thank the distinguished Senator from Florida.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

PERIOD FOR EULOGIES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for eulogies for the former Senator from Georgia, Mr. PAUL COVERDELL.

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, the 10 days since his sudden passing and the outpouring of expression from many different directions have given me the opportunity to reflect on PAUL's life, the gifts he brought to the Senate, and the impact his life had on people.

I want to focus my remarks on PAUL COVERDELL's humility, which I think was his defining quality, his greatest gift, and one which had the greatest impact on the lives of others.

Many people might say that humility, sometimes defined as freedom from pride or arrogance, is a quality not found often in our society today. No one disputes, however, that PAUL COVERDELL possessed a deep sense of humility.

During the past 10 days, PAUL COVERDELL has been described as: Serious and low key; self-effacing; uncomfortable in the limelight; a humble public servant who became a political giant through selfless dedication and quiet civility; a very gentle and courteous person; a person people went to, felt really comfortable with, and opened up to; a person who really cared for what happened to others; a person many regarded as the Senate's leading mediator; a person of scrupulous integrity and unblemished character; a person with an unsurpassed work ethic and standard of personal ethics and devotion to what he was doing; a person who always kept his word and was someone you could count on—just to mention a few characterizations.

How many of us would like to be known as individuals who possess these qualities?

Too often we think success results from aggressive, enterprising, pushy, and contentious behavior. In the case