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Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)

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

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. Karl Kenneth Stegall, First United Methodist Church, Montgomery, AL, offered the following prayer:

Let us bow in prayer:

Almighty God, Judge of all nations, we offer You today our heartfelt thanks for the good land which we have inherited. We praise You for all of the noble souls who in their own day and generation did give themselves to the call of liberty and freedom, counting their own lives not dear, but giving all devotion to establish a land in the fear of the Lord.

More especially today, we thank You for the Members of this United States Senate. Enlarge their vision, increase their wisdom, purify their motives. We would not ask You to bless what they do, but we would rather ask that they shall do what You can bless.

May they see that in all they do they are acting in Your stead for the well-being of all of the citizens of this great Nation. May they have a lively sense of serving under Your divine providence and a holy remembrance that where there is no vision, Your people perish.

Let them always remember that they serve a public trust far beyond personal gain or glory, and may they always acknowledge their dependence upon You. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, it is my privilege to yield to the distinguished Senator from Alabama, so he might introduce for the RECORD, comments concerning our visiting Chaplain.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN, DR. KARL KENNETH STEGALL

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it has been an honor to be with Dr. Karl Stegall this morning and to be blessed by his prayer. He is pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Montgomery, AL. First Methodist is one of the great Methodist churches in Alabama, and, in fact, of all of Methodism. It has had two of its pastors become United Methodist bishops. Indeed, Karl himself was endorsed by the 600 pastors and 600 laity of the Alabama-West Florida Conference for the Episcopality several years ago.

Karl grew up in rural Alabama, not too far from where I did. It is considered to be a poor county, and a poor area, but not poor in things that matter. He even came over to Camden once and won the beef competition with the FFA.

But he has not forgotten his heritage. He has served in his career at First United Methodist Andalusia, First Bonifay, Whitfield Memorial, and was district superintendent. For the last 18 years, he has been pastor of First Methodist.

It has been a heavenly match. That great gothic church, with its soaring ceiling and buttresses and superb choir, has blossomed under his leadership. Attendance has grown. Young people are

everywhere. The church has expanded and grown in so many different ways to bless the community. He served as a leader on the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and always fought aggressively to ensure that every dollar contributed, as I have heard him say, from the small, individual church men and women, was spent wisely and effectively.

He is loved by all, but he has courage and is willing to speak forcefully. He recently delivered a sermon when Alabama was considering whether or not to adopt a lottery. He questioned the wisdom of having the State encourage people to invest their money in random chances to be rich. That sermon was received very well, passed all over the State, and the State eventually rejected that choice.

His wife, Brenda, and he have been partners throughout their ministry, and they have two daughters. He is a beloved minister by his congregation, by his fellow ministers, and respected by all in the community.

He is a Christian clergyman of the finest kind. While he would have been successful in any profession, he chose to give his life to the greatest profession.

By his fine prayer today, we are blessed. By his life and ministry, the people of his church have been blessed. And by his presence today he serves as a recognition of the constant and superb service delivered by tens of thousands of ministers throughout this Nation who daily enrich the lives of their parishioners; who serve them in times of illness and sickness; who minister to them in times of emotional stress, divorce, and all kinds of family challenges; who celebrate with them marriages and births. Those thousands and thousands of ministers who do that daily are not run by the Federal Government. They are not paid by this Government, but they are there, serving their faith and their Lord.

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



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So we are, indeed, delighted to have with us today one of our finest Christian ministers in the State of Alabama, Dr. Karl Stegall.

I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I wish to make this statement for the leader. Today, the Senate will immediately begin consideration of H. J. Res 109, the continuing resolution. Under the previous agreement, there will be up to 7 hours for debate with a vote scheduled to occur after the use of the time or after the yielding back of the time. After the adoption of the continuing resolution, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote in regard to the H-1B visa bill. Therefore, Senators can expect at least two votes during this afternoon's session of the Senate.

As a reminder, tomorrow evening is the beginning of Rosh Hashanah. Therefore, the Senate will complete its business today and will not reconvene until Monday, October 2, in observance of this religious holiday.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 109, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 109) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the joint resolution is advanced to third reading.

The joint resolution (H. J. Res. 109) was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 7 hours for final debate, with 6 hours under the control of the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, and 1 hour under the control of the Senator from Alaska, Mr. STEVENS.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. As an opening statement on this continuing resolution that is now before the Senate, I want to state that this is a simple 6-day continuing resolution. This bill will fund ongoing Federal programs at the same rate and under the same conditions as currently applied to each agency of our Federal Government.

The continuing resolution now pending before the Senate is in the same form as those passed in previous years to bridge Federal spending until the full year's appropriations acts are completed. This committee has made good progress this week in advancing work

on the fiscal year 2001 bills. The energy and water bill was filed last night and should be taken up in the House later today. Work is nearly completed on the Interior appropriations bill, and the conference on the Transportation bill will meet later today. I want to assure all of our colleagues of our determination to complete the work of the Appropriations Committee within the next week, to meet the target adjournment date of Friday, October 6.

Hopefully, this will be the only CR needed for the remainder of the consideration of the appropriations bills for the fiscal year 2001.

A second continuing resolution may, however, be needed to ensure the President has the required period that the Constitution gives him to review the bills that are passed by the House and Senate as conference reports once they are presented to the President.

Mr. President, we are in a difficult situation this year because we are adjourning this evening and will not be here through the full period of September. We will miss 2 days of the time we would otherwise have to complete our work. Therefore, it is necessary that the Senate approve this continuing resolution.

I urge the Senate to do so and we will strive to complete our work within the next week.

Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time.

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

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, in order that I do not lose the time allotted to me, 1 hour, I ask unanimous consent that the time of the quorum call not be charged against either side.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, what is the item before the Senate, the question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. H.J. Res. 109. The Senator from West Virginia controls 6 hours and the Senator from Alaska 1 hour.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

Has any time been charged against—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska has used 3 minutes.

There has been no time charged against the Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, to begin with, I should say that I intend to support the short-term continuing resolution. I think it is very important that we do so. But I have reserved this time for the purpose of expressing concerns about what is happening to the Senate and, in particular, what is happening to the appropriations process. Several of my colleagues will join me as we move through the morning and the afternoon. I shall do so without, of course, pointing my finger of criticism at any Senator, naming any Senator. I merely want to talk about what is happening to our Senate, its rules, its processes. And I intend to abide by the rules concerning debate. I say that at the start.

Mr. President, section 7, article I, of the U.S. Constitution, states: "All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills."

Let me quote again the last portion of section 7, article I: "but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills," meaning the Senate may propose or concur with amendments on any bill, whether it is a revenue bill or otherwise. When I say "bills," I include, of course, resolutions.

Thus, Mr. President, the organic law of our Republic assures Senators—all Senators; Republicans and Democrats—the right to offer amendments, not only to bills for raising revenue, but also "other bills."

The requirement that revenue bills shall originate in the House of Representatives grew out of the Great Compromise, which was entered into on July 16, 1787. It was this Great Compromise that provided for equality of the States in the Upper House, with each State, large or small, having two votes. And, but for which, the Constitutional Convention would have ended in failure, and instead of a United States of America, which we have today, we would have had, in all likelihood, a "Balkanized States of America" from sea to shining sea—from the Atlantic to the Pacific—from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. The small States at the Constitutional Convention were adamant in their demands for equal status with the large States in the Upper House, regardless of size or population, so that the small State of Rhode Island, for example, had an equal vote in the Senate with the large State of New York which was larger and with a greater population. All States are equal in this body.

When the large States yielded to the small States in this regard, the way was open and paved for eventual success in the attainment of the Constitution which was then sent to the States for ratification. As a part of that compromise, the large States demanded that revenue bills originate in the House of Representatives.