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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

### PRAYER

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

Liberating Lord, as we look forward to our celebration of Independence Day, we renew our dedication to You. We praise You for the gallant and heroic women and men who were the heroes and heroines of the birth of our Nation. They were people who put their trust in You, followed Your guidance in the quest of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and fought for freedom for all.

Thank You for the sense of destiny they had, that this was to be a unique nation in the family of nations, a nation under You as only Sovereign. Yet when we look back over the 226 years of our history, we realize that each generation must rediscover true patriotism, live out the American dream, and battle for freedom of opportunity for all people, regardless of race or creed.

Lord, we depend on You as we seek to be worthy of the independence we celebrate. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 25, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. LANDRIEU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. The Chair will shortly announce we will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 today. That period of time is under the control of the majority leader or his designee. At 10:30, we resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill, and from 12:30 to 2:15 we will have our weekly party conferences.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

### WOMEN IN THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I was here yesterday morning when the Senate convened. The Presiding Officer at that time was the Senator from Arkansas, Mrs. LINCOLN. This morning, the Senate is opened by the Senator from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU. I mention that because I came here when we did not have many women Senators. It adds such a bright light to the Senate to have these strong, good, women serving the country. One out of every five Democrats in the Senate is a woman. That is going to increase. It will be one in four, one in three, then it will be even, and, who knows, maybe one day women will be in the majority.

I applaud the people of Louisiana for sending to the Senate MARY LANDRIEU, who has added so much in her 6 years here.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4931

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding H.R. 4931 is at the desk and is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask H.R. 4931 be read for the second time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4931) to provide that the pension and individual retirement arrangement provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 shall be permanent.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I have asked permission to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

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



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The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is in morning business.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I will speak on two subjects. First, the pension issue that I have talked about several times on the Senate floor in recent weeks. We have some information that I will share with Members about the extent of that problem. We hope before the end of this week we will have some legislation to propose to begin addressing that problem.

The other subject is the U.N. population fund. I ask that the Chair please advise me when 5 of my 10 minutes have been consumed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair will do so.

#### PENSION REFORM

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, the retirement system in this country leaves a great deal to be desired. We have many people who do not have adequate income when they reach the age of retirement. We have some charts that make that case. These charts are based on the 1999 U.S. census current population survey. They make the case fairly strongly.

This first chart is titled "Private Workers Who Participate in an Employer Sponsored Plan," and breaks down the population by race and ethnicity. When we look at all workers as of 1999, there were 44 percent of the private workers who participated in the employer-sponsored plan, looking at the entire population. Among white, non-Hispanic workers, there were 47 percent or nearly half of the population that had some sort of employer-sponsored plan. That means a little over half did not. This chart does not include the public-sector employees or the self-employed workers.

For other minority groups the numbers are substantially less. For black, non-Hispanic, it is 41 percent; for Asian Pacific islanders and other non-Hispanic, 38 percent; for other minority non-Hispanic, 35 percent; and among Hispanic workers, it is 27 percent. Therefore, 27 percent, slightly more than one fourth of the private-sector Hispanic workers in the country, have an employer-sponsored plan.

That is important in my State because we have a large Hispanic population. When you look around the country and ask, where is the problem the worst as far as inadequate retirement coverage, my State is No. 1 in the Nation for the number of private-sector workers that do not have coverage.

The second chart demonstrates the percentage of private-sector workers who work at companies that provide after retirement or a pension plan. This chart talks of the companies employing these workers.

Madam President, 58 percent of all employees work for employers that provide some kind of plan. But then the numbers decline. Among white non-Hispanic, it is higher, and 62 per-

cent of those employees work for companies that provide some kind of retirement plan; among Hispanic workers, only 40 percent of Hispanic workers nationwide work for companies that provide some kind of retirement plan. So this is a significant concern and a significant part of the problem as well.

The third chart illustrates the percentage of employees who participate in an employer-sponsored plan when the employer actually offers the plan. This is an assessment of how many people actually take advantage of this plan, in these different groups, once they have the opportunity. Among all workers, 75 percent nationwide will participate and have participated in an employer-sponsored plan if it is offered. Again, it is a little higher for white, non-Hispanic workers—up to 77 percent. Among Hispanics, it is 68 percent.

The interesting aspect about this is it is much less of a spread between the average, the "all worker" category, 75 percent, and the Hispanic, which is 68 percent, which makes the obvious case that Hispanic participation is not significantly different from that of the rest of the population when they are offered a plan.

The final chart pulls all this data together, puts it all in one place so we can understand it.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has consumed 5 minutes.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I appreciate the Chair's information.

While it is not conclusive, it does indicate that if Hispanic workers do have jobs where the employers offer some type of plan, they tend to participate. Unfortunately, the data indicates that Hispanics tend to work for employers who do not offer retirement plans. What we need to do is get more employers to offer retirement plans, particularly small employers. That is what the legislation we are developing right now is intended to do. I will be proposing that later.

I urge my colleagues to look at this issue seriously. I hope we can introduce a bill before the week is out.

#### UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, now I will focus on the U.N. population fund. Last year I voted for the Foreign Operations conference report. I thought the funds provided there were inadequate to meet our pressing needs as we talked about them, but I recognized that the roughly \$15 billion would provide help to millions of desperately poor people around the world and at the same time help improve the short-term and long-term security of our own country. I voted for that bill.

Here we are 7 months later and some of the most important funding provided in that bill, the \$34 million provided for the U.N. population fund, is still sit-

ting at the Department of Treasury. It is not helping poor people. It is not helping to make America more secure. It is just sitting at the Treasury Department.

The United Nations population fund works in over 150 countries, where it helps give women around the world access to reproductive health care and family planning services as well as services to ensure safe pregnancy and delivery. This population fund, the U.N. population fund, plays a critical role in helping prevent the further spread of AIDS. The withholding of U.S. funds, which is what we as a country are engaged in right now, only exacerbates the general inadequate health of poor women worldwide. It leads to more unwanted pregnancies and to deaths of more and more women during childbirth.

Last fall, the Bush administration provided an extra \$600,000 to the U.N. population fund to help women in Afghanistan, and these funds were very welcome and were certainly used, substantially to provide safe birthing kits, which are very important. They were also used to open and upgrade maternity hospitals, which is very important.

I want to make clear that the population fund does not perform abortions. It does not support the performing of abortions in any way. Anyone who suggests that they do has not studied the situation in depth.

The House of Representatives passed a conference report on the fiscal year Foreign Operations bill which included \$34 million for this purpose. It was an overwhelming vote. The Senate approved \$40 million for this purpose, also with a lopsided vote. But now, because of hearsay, because of unsubstantiated allegations that have been disproved many times, the administration is holding up this critically important funding.

It is the most desperate women in the world who are adversely affected by this action; it is not the United Nations itself. The women who would benefit from this funding are the most adversely affected.

I believe very strongly that the administration has been willing to follow the law and speed the appropriation of funds for these purposes in the past. I cannot understand why we are not moving ahead this year. The emergency supplemental appropriations bill that is presently being conferenced provides an excellent opportunity for us to resolve this issue.

I urge the Senate conferees to ensure that language included in the supplemental passed in the Senate be included in the conference report. That language requires that this money, the \$34 million that was appropriated last December, be released unless the President certifies by July 10 that doing so would violate U.S. law.

This is fair. More important, it is the intent of Congress. It is the law of the land. I urge the administration to follow through in the conference.