



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003

No. 158

Senate

The Senate met at 9:33 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of love, we praise You because You are good. You made the Sun to rule the day and Your love is eternal. We receive strength from Your kindness and power from Your favor. You choose to bless us even when we don't deserve it. Great and marvelous are Your favors.

Lord, this is Your world and Your purposes cannot be stopped. Use us as Your instruments to accomplish Your will.

Today, give Members of this body courage and strength for their important work. May they avoid those words that create division and work toward a harmony that builds and strengthens. Give them radiant health for these challenging days and a serenity that comes from trusting You. Help them to find fulfillment in the knowledge that their work will help keep people free. We pray this in Your powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will have a period of morning business for the first hour of the day's session. Following that hour, the Senate will begin consideration of the fair credit reporting legislation. The consent agreement governing that bill allows for a limited number of amendments to be offered to the legislation. We hope to complete action on that bill during today's session.

Last night we were also able to reach an agreement on H.R. 1828, the Syria accountability bill. We may be able to schedule consideration of that measure during today's session as well.

Rollcall votes will occur throughout the day today. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the regular party luncheons.

In addition to the items I have mentioned, the Senate will act this week on the Internet tax moratorium extension. I anticipate that debate to begin

on Thursday, and we will complete that before the end of this week.

Also, additional appropriations conference reports may be ready during the week, and we will proceed to those that are available.

It is my understanding the military construction conference is completed, and that may be ready for consideration this week.

We will continue to schedule votes as necessary over the course of the week.

This week we will also continue on the appropriations bills. I have been speaking to the chairman of the committee, and it is hoped the remaining bills can be finished in a timely way. I will have more to say on the specifics of the appropriations schedule after further discussion with the chairman, Senator STEVENS, and the Democratic leadership as well.

With that said, in order for us to adjourn at the earliest time this year, it is important for all of our colleagues to recognize we are going to need to work every day and have productive days. That is going to include Mondays, and it is going to include Fridays. It will likely include each day next week. I know a lot of Senators are wondering about their schedule for next week, given the Veterans Day holiday. I think over the course of the morning we will be able to lock in an understanding in terms of how and when we can consider these appropriations bills.

NOTICE

Effective January 1, 2004, the subscription price of the Congressional Record will be \$503 per year or \$252 for six months. Individual issues may be purchased at the following costs: Less than 200 pages, \$10.50; Between 200 and 400 pages, \$21.00; Greater than 400 pages, \$31.50. Subscriptions in microfiche format will be \$146 per year with single copies priced at \$3.00. This price increase is necessary based upon the cost of printing and distribution.

BRUCE R. JAMES, *Public Printer*.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S13839

After that is done, we will clarify what will happen on Veterans Day.

We have all come to the floor many times to express our desire to finish our work at the earliest opportunity and, in my mind, we have 3 weeks—actually, it is less than 3 weeks—now to complete our work. In order to do that, we will have to work together. We will have to have full, productive days, including Mondays and Fridays. It may well be we have to even consider weekends in order to complete our business. We will monitor the schedule and progress closely over the next day or so and make those final decisions regarding scheduling next week. At this time, I think all Members should prepare for a very busy 2½ weeks.

Again, I would like very much for us to work together to shoot for a total of 3 weeks, around November 21, to depart.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me say on behalf of the minority that we are most happy to work on all the items the majority leader has mentioned. We look forward to working with the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and Senator BYRD to move more of these appropriations bills. I think we have a really outstanding record working with the majority on appropriations bills and will continue to do that. We feel it is vitally important. The conference which was completed last week was extremely difficult and long. But we now have a bill which the President has.

We finished the Interior appropriations conference report. I am happy to hear we have a completed military construction conference report. That wasn't easy. Everyone had to take their projects in their States and cut back from what they had.

We look forward to a productive 2½ weeks. I hope we will do everything we can to complete our business before Thanksgiving.

We are here to work nights, weekends, whatever it takes, to complete that work.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second 30 minutes under the control of the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, or her designee.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. My understanding is we are in morning business.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

JOB IN AMERICA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I bring to the attention of the Senate an issue dealing with jobs. It is a story about international trade, unfair competition, and the impact it has had on countless of our workers.

There was great euphoria a week or so ago about the economic growth numbers for the past quarter, some 7-percent economic growth. The problem is, it was accompanied by a loss of jobs.

Jobs are the kind of thing that families talk about in the evening as they sit around the supper table: Do I have a good job? Does it pay well? Do I have job security? Do I feel good about the company I am working for?

Our country, regrettably, has lost nearly 3 million jobs in the past several years.

This is a picture of a bicycle. This happens to be a Huffy bicycle. Huffy is a well-known brand. It is sold at Wal-Mart, KMart, Sears. This Huffy bicycle used to be made in the United States. In Celina, OH, some 850 U.S. workers worked manufacturing bicycles.

When a bike came off the Ohio plant's assembly line, they would put a little decal on, of an American flag.

That was then, this is now. In the last couple of years, those jobs have all moved to China, Taiwan, and Mexico. There were about 1,850 workers at Huffy plants in the United States as of 1998. And all those folks were fired, as their jobs were moved overseas.

In Celina, OH, Huffy workers were paid \$11 an hour plus benefits. These are decent manufacturing jobs. Nobody was getting rich on \$11 an hour plus benefits, but these were good, solid jobs.

Then they were told one day they would not be working those jobs any longer because Huffy bicycles would be produced in China.

My understanding is that the very last assignment for these U.S. workers was to take off that decal from Huffy bikes, and slap on a decal that had a picture of the globe.

Let's talk a little about why a company would decide to shut its plant in Ohio and make bicycles in China.

Huffy started to manufacture its bikes at a plant in China, where workers have to put in 13½- to 15-hour shifts, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., 7 days a week.

Let me say that again: 93 hours a week, 7 days a week, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

They are paid between 25 cents an hour and 41 cents an hour. Failure to work overtime is punished with a fine of 2 days' wages.

There are strong chemical odors in the plant from the painting depart-

ment, excessively high temperatures from the welding section, no health insurance, no social pension, strict factory rules, harsh management, no talking during working hours.

Twelve workers are housed in each dark, stark dorm room. They have two meals a day, with poor quality food. If the workers complain or attempt to raise a grievance about harsh working conditions, or excessively long, forced overtime hours or low wages, they are immediately fired.

In this particular plant, in late 1999, all the workers in the delivery section went on strike and were fired immediately.

So the question is, if we cannot produce bicycles in Ohio for 25-cent-an-hour to 41-cent-an-hour wages, do U.S. workers lose? Under current circumstances, yes, we do, because companies decide that if U.S. workers can't compete with slave-like conditions, tough luck. If you can't compete, you are out.

So people who were working in this company in Celina, OH, making bicycles for our marketplace, could not compete because they were expecting a liveable wage. They worked hard, and they were able to take a paycheck home that meets the needs of their families: \$11 an hour plus benefits. But they were told that this was an outrageous level of compensation: \$11 an hour—far too much.

So instead Huffy found a place where it could pay 25 cents an hour, and then shipped its bikes back to Celina, OH, so that some young kid in Celina, OH, could go into a Wal-Mart or a Sears or a KMart, and with a gleam in their eye buy his first bicycle. A bicycle now made by somebody who is making 25 cents an hour, working 93 hours a week, 7 days a week.

I guess this so-called globalization is globalization without rules. It means it does not matter that Americans lose their jobs to somebody making 25 cents an hour.

I have given other examples of 12-year-olds working 12 hours a day, making 12 cents an hour. I am talking about Huffy bicycles today to drive home a point, because Huffy is a household name.

If we fought for a century on the issue of a safe workplace or child labor laws or minimum wages or the conditions of production, then the question should be, Is there an admission price to the American marketplace? Is there any admission price at all?

What about bicycles made in a plant where workers are working 93 hours a week, where workers are working from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., 7 days a week? Is that fair trade—25 cents an hour, 93 hours a week, 7 days a week, working in a factory that does not meet the basic conditions of fairness or safety for workers?

Is that fair trade? It is not where I come from. Yet no one will say a word about it. In this town, you are either blindly for free trade, unfettered free