



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *108th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2003

No. 56

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Campbell Gillon, Pastor Emeritus of Georgetown Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we are creatures of a day, yet we thank Thee for touching our lives with eternity, endowing us with insight as well as sight, conscience as well as cleverness, spiritual responsiveness as well as physical reflexes. Forgive us whenever we deny the "better angels" of our nature, thus depriving ourselves of divine guidance and help.

We need Thy help now as a nation of nations, peerless in military power and economic potential, that we do not fall into the temptations of overweening superiority or self-centered isolationism. We know from this Republic's foundation, recognizing divine endowments received, that righteousness alone exalts a nation and where this vision is lacking, people cast off restraint and perish. Save us from such an end through corruption of the spirit. Teach us that we are alive for a purpose and that popularity in the world does not necessarily equate with divine approval. May we learn individually and collectively from the words of the old hymn:

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man, and look above thee:
Trust in God and do the right.

Lord God, we need Thy help daily to discern the right. Knowing how mixed human motives can be, keep this Nation ever facing toward good ends of liberation from oppression, humanitarian help, others' self-determination and lasting peace. In this sinful world, grant wisdom to those creating nec-

essary firebreaks of lesser evil to contain and extinguish the greater, since fervent wishing will not make it so.

Comfort and bless all whose suffering is part of the price of peace. Give grace to this Senate as they make decisions that will affect many, and grasp each opportunity for good afforded by the sacrifices made. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business today until 10:30 a.m. This is the time set aside for Senators to honor the men and women fighting in Iraq.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be a circuit court judge for the Fifth Circuit. A number of Senators have indicated they are prepared to speak on her nomination, and I hope they will do so during today's session.

As I mentioned yesterday, the Senate has only confirmed two circuit court nominees this year. We have a total of six circuit court nominations pending on the Executive Calendar awaiting Senate action. I will continue to work with the Democratic leader to try to schedule these judicial nominations for a vote at a time certain.

Having said that, it is my hope that later today we will be able to reach a

consent agreement to vote on the pending Owen nomination. I hope Members will not object to that agreement once they are given an opportunity to speak during today's session.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party lunches.

It is my expectation that the Senate will take up the CARE Act this afternoon under the agreement reached last week. There is an understanding that although we will begin this bill this afternoon, we will not finish the CARE Act until Wednesday morning. In addition, there are a number of other remaining issues that may be addressed this week prior to the April recess, and therefore Senators should expect votes each day of the session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, from 10:30 until 12:30, is there any need that we, in effect, guard the floor, and that there will be no call for the vote on the Owen nomination this morning?

Mr. FRIST. That would be fine. We do not expect to vote between 10:30 and 12:30.

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 10:30 a.m., with time to be equally divided between the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the Democratic leader or his designee.

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

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



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