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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON KYL, a Senator from the State of Arizona.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, we pause today to lift our hearts to You. You are the God of hope who fills us with joy and peace. Thank You for the privilege of serving You as we labor for country.

Today, inspire our Senators with Your presence. Renew their minds, stir their spirits, and warm their hearts. Give them wisdom so that they can alleviate the suffering of the multitudes. Open to us opportunities to touch the lives of others with the spirit of hope we find in You.

Let our lips and lives sing Your praises for the kingdom, the power, and the glory belong to You. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON KYL 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 15, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON KYL, a Senator

from the State of Arizona, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KYL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we are returning to the consideration of the budget resolution. Last night, the two managers reached an agreement for a series of amendments that will be debated this morning. Following that debate, we will schedule votes on the amendments debated last evening, as well as the amendments that will be finished this morning. We will likely have the first vote around 1 o'clock today.

We have a joint meeting at 2 o'clock today. Senators will gather in the Chamber and depart at approximately 1:40 to hear the address by the President of Liberia. We would like to dispose of two votes prior to that joint meeting so I ask all Senators vote quickly on the first vote so we have time to do that second vote prior to our departure.

When we return from that joint meeting, at approximately 3 o'clock today, we will start a series of rollcall votes to dispose of the remaining amendments from the list agreed to. We continue to work toward an agreement for consideration of the debt limit extension. We may turn to that bill later today as well.

I will say again that we have a lot to do. We have the budget resolution and the debt limit extension, both of which we need to complete this week. We will stay as late as necessary today, tomorrow,

Thursday night, Friday to complete these two issues. I encourage Senators to show as much restraint as possible to allow us to finish at the earliest possible time.

I am happy to yield to the Senator from Alaska.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

HONORING MAGGIE INOUE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, words cannot express the sadness that my wife, Catherine and I felt when we learned Maggie Inouye had passed away.

Maggie was truly DAN's partner in life. Their courtship and marriage was a love story for the ages.

As so many of us did during World War II, DAN put his education on hold to serve his country. When he met Maggie, DAN was finishing his undergraduate degree at the University of Hawaii. He knew instantly he wanted to marry her. On their second date, they were engaged.

From that point on, Maggie was a constant source of support and friendship for DAN. She had a gift for teaching and a way with words. Maggie worked as a university speech instructor while DAN was finishing college. Many have praised DAN's speeches on the Senate floor, but few know Maggie had a hand in our good friend's eloquence. As Frank Fasi, the former mayor of Honolulu, once said, "If anyone was responsible, she was responsible for [DAN's] wonderful oratory."

When DAN decided to go into politics, Maggie supported him, listened to him, and campaigned for him.

When DAN was elected to the House of Representatives in 1959, Maggie came to Washington with him to help serve the people of Hawaii. It could not have been easy to leave her family and friends in Hawaii behind, but Maggie was a devoted wife—and in her own, quiet way, a devoted public servant.

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



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In his autobiography, DAN tells the story of the day he was elected to the Senate. It was Election Day in 1962, and DAN and Maggie had gone to the polls. As they walked toward the voting booth DAN asked Maggie, "How do you think you'll like being a Senator's lady?"

Maggie looked at DAN and said, "Being DAN INOUE's lady is what's important. The rest is just extra."

That story really tells you who Maggie Inouye was. She was an elegant woman. Her love for DAN was absolute, and she was completely devoted to him.

Maggie lived her life with great dignity, grace, and optimism. It was these qualities that drew DAN to her 58 years ago. Even illness could not dampen her spirit.

Catherine and I extend our deepest sympathies to DAN, their son Kenny and his wife Jessica, and Maggie's five sisters. Maggie will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

As everyone can tell, I too have a mentor in my wife Catherine. Dr. Lindsey Hayes helped me prepare these remarks.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Alaska, I ask the calling of the quorum be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 83, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 83) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 and 2008 through 2011.

Pending:

Specter amendment No. 3048, to increase the advance appropriations allowance in order to fund health, education and training, and low-income programs.

Stabenow amendment No. 3056, to provide \$5 billion for our emergency responders so that they can field effective and reliable interoperable communications equipment to respond to natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and the public safety needs of America's communities, and fully offset this by closing tax loopholes and collecting more from the tax gap.

Menendez amendment No. 3054, to provide an additional \$965 million to make our ports

more secure by increasing port security grants, increasing inspections, improving existing programs, and increasing research and development, and to fully offset this additional funding by closing tax loopholes.

McConnell amendment No. 3061, to provide funding for maritime security, including the Container Security Initiative, improved data for targeted cargo searches, and full background checks and security threat assessments of personnel at our nation's seaports.

Byrd amendment No. 3062, to provide \$184 million over five years for the Mine Safety and Health Administration to hire additional mine safety inspectors, paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Chambliss (for Dayton) amendment No. 3018, to restore funding for the Byrne/JAG grant program to the FY 2003 level of \$900 million, offset with an across the board cut to administrative expenses, travel and consulting services.

Murray amendment No. 3063, to restore funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program to the fiscal 2004 level by closing tax loopholes previously slated for elimination in Senate-passed legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3068

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I thought the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, Senator GREGG, might give us a little bit more texture about the order of the day, but I think the majority leader pointed out what the schedule is going to be. The first amendment, as I understand that is to be laid down, is an amendment which I now ask unanimous consent to call up.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. KYL], for himself and Mr. CORNYN, proposes amendment numbered 3068.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To designate \$2 billion in immigration- and homeland security-related funding for interior enforcement purposes, including, but not limited to: federal detention bed spaces and personnel; implementation of an expanded and user-friendly Electronic Employment Verification System; and, additional worksite enforcement personnel, including additional immigration enforcement agents, forensics auditors, fraud agents, intelligence research assistants, employer outreach assistants, and others)

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$2,000,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$2,000,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000,000.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent Senator CORNYN be added as an original cosponsor of this amendment.

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

Mr. KYL. By way of brief explanation, this amendment adds, with an offset from the function 920, a total of

\$2 billion to the fiscal year 2007 budget for the purpose of additional immigration and Homeland Security resources. The actual tally of costs that we are probably going to have to bear exceeds this amount. But in effect, this will be a downpayment toward the necessary work to be done in beginning to prepare for a temporary worker program, a worker eligibility or verification program and other elements of a comprehensive immigration reform that would be necessary to fit together once the Senate acts and the House acts on such a system.

In addition, funding that could be included within this \$2 billion is the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, or SCAAP funding, which the budget currently does not fund but which historically has been funded at up to about \$600 million. Last year, it was a little more than a third that much. Clearly, Congress needs to act to reinstate the funding for the SCAAP program. This amendment can accommodate that funding as well.

Let me list the primary elements of this particular amendment that funds programs necessary to begin the development of the worker verification program in connection with comprehensive immigration reform.

One thing we need to do is to implement an electronic employment verification system and clean up the Social Security database and reissue a secure Social Security card and number to workers in the United States as the primary method of verifying worker eligibility. That is going to require not only work to clean up the database itself but a broadening of the current basic pilot program which is the only program currently in existence that can electronically verify employment. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated it will take about \$450 million to erect the system and, in effect, to make the basic pilot program through the Department of Homeland Security mandatory, rather than discretionary, over a period of 5 years, about \$90 million each year.

The Social Security Administration has estimated costs with regard to creating a system to produce a secure Social Security card and distribute that. Those costs vary widely in terms of the estimates. One estimate that could be made, based upon information that has been provided, would provide a cost of about \$1.14 billion a year to actually get this entire system up and running. That cost, or part of that for 1 year could be included within the \$2 billion that is specified in this amendment.

Second, we are going to need worksite enforcement personnel. One of the areas that has been neglected in the current enforcement regime is the following up or auditing of employers who, in many cases, are employing illegal immigrants. The Bureau of Immigration Enforcement, responsible for enforcing immigration laws at the worksite, has requested 200 full-time employees, about a \$23 million expense