



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2006

No. 83

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 2006, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2006

The Senate met at 11:04 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God our Father, we turn our hearts and minds toward You. Search us deeply and cleanse us from all insincerity. Give us a desire to do Your will, even when it means bearing a cross.

Bless our Senators. Strengthen them to resist temptation and to walk the narrow road that leads to life. Give them compassion for others that can be seen in courageous actions that liberate.

Help us all to strive to be faithful in order that one day, we can hear You say, "Well done."

We pray in the Name of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM 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, June 23, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. GRAHAM thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we return to session today for a period of morning business to allow Senators to introduce legislation and to make remarks. We will have a relatively short session today, I expect. When we finish, we will adjourn until Monday.

On Monday, we will begin debate on the constitutional amendment relating to antflag desecration. I will have more to say about the schedule for next week later in the day.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I congratulate the two managers of the Defense authorization bill who did a superb job over the last several weeks in overseeing the debate and marching through the amendments on this important legislation. We had some strong disagreements on both sides of the aisle, sometimes within each side of the aisle. We addressed a number of contentious issues. At the end of the day, after debate and amendment, we had overwhelming support for the bill itself.

The debate followed a healthy and productive debate on immigration and border security for the 2 to 3 weeks prior to that, a total of a month prior. We have seen in recent weeks that the Senate is working quite well in terms of having people's views expressed, debated in a dignified way, getting points across, helping become better educated ourselves and educating the American people in the process.

I thank Senators WARNER and LEVIN for their tremendous work in navigating through the challenging issues and bringing Defense authorization to a close in a cooperative manner.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

• 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 clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. DORGAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3561 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am going to talk briefly about an issue I think is really very important dealing with the country of India and nuclear weapons that are possessed by India and other countries around the world.

Yesterday, one of my colleagues in the Senate indicated that weapons of mass destruction had been found in Iraq. I guess he was referring to some inert artillery shells that were produced in the 1980s for the Iran-Iraq war. No one believes those are weapons of mass destruction. That is an absurd claim. I think it has been described as absurd by nearly everybody. But since the subject of weapons of mass destruction has been raised I want to make a few comments.

I have in my desk in the Senate a piece of metal. I ask unanimous consent to show it on the floor of the Senate.

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

Mr. DORGAN. This is from a Backfire bomber. It used to be part of a wing strut on a Soviet Backfire bomber. This bomber, presumably, carried nuclear weapons to threaten the United States at some point. The bomber doesn't exist anymore. The bomber's wings were sawed off and it was cut into small metal pieces. We paid for that under the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program in which we spend American taxpayers' money to dismantle former Soviet nuclear weapons and their delivery systems—missiles, bombers, submarines.

I also have in my desk some chewed-up copper from the electrical wiring from a submarine that once carried nuclear weapons aimed at the United States. We paid money to dismantle weapons of mass destruction in the arsenal of the Soviet Union. So we didn't shoot this airplane down. This piece of metal from a Soviet bomber was achieved because we paid for the saw that cut the wings off of the bomber. What a remarkably successful program to try to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons.

I think the threat of nuclear weapons is the greatest threat that we face. We have roughly 25,000 to 30,000 nuclear weapons on this Earth. The loss of one nuclear weapon to a terrorist and the detonation of one by a terrorist in a

major American city will cause a catastrophe unlike any of us can imagine. There are roughly 25,000 to 30,000 nuclear weapons in this world. Where are they? Are they safeguarded? Will someone steal one? Who is building more? Who wants nuclear weapons? What are we doing about that? These are critically important questions.

A former Secretary of Defense says that he believes the question is not so much whether but when will a nuclear weapon be detonated in an American city? A former Secretary of Defense says he believes there is a 50-percent likelihood that within the next 10 years a nuclear weapon will be detonated in a major American city. I don't know whether that is true or not. I do know this: this world is full of nuclear weapons. More countries want to achieve the capability of possessing nuclear weapons. It is our responsibility—it falls to us as a world leader to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and begin to reduce the number of nuclear weapons. That is our job.

I am not very encouraged, frankly, by actions in the Congress in recent years, turning down the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, suggesting that we want to reserve the right to test nuclear weapons again. The discussion in the administration and even some in Congress is that what we really need are new nuclear weapons, designer nuclear weapons, earth-penetrating bunker buster nuclear weapons. There is a suggestion by some that nuclear weapons are perfectly usable. They are not.

The only success we can measure will be the success by which we prevent another nuclear weapon from ever being exploded in anger on this planet. That is the only success that can matter.

I want to talk a little about the nuclear agreement the Bush Administration has reached with India, which I think undermines our nonproliferation policy of many years. It also undermines the Non-Proliferation Treaty that we have signed, and many other countries have signed. India has not signed it. It stops the proliferation of nuclear weapons. At least it says it is our resolve to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

I want to talk about this new agreement that Secretary Rice, on behalf of the President and others, has negotiated with India, and what it means for the job we have of stopping the spread of nuclear weapons. One of our major periodicals in this country described a story that was not reported much post-9/11. In the period post-9/11, my understanding from press reports was that our intelligence picked up some kind of a report from their sources that a nuclear weapon had been stolen by a terrorist organization from the Russian stockpile of nuclear weapons and was prepared to be detonated by terrorists. I believe they said either in New York City or Washington, DC—in any event, one of America's major cities. Those who picked up this rumor

in the intelligence community were very concerned about it, very worried about it.

After some period of time it was determined that this was not a credible rumor, but in retrospect the analysts determined that it is perfectly plausible. It is not unthinkable that a terrorist organization could acquire a nuclear weapon, or steal one from an existing stockpile. It is not implausible that having stolen a nuclear weapon they could have detonated it in a major American city. That ought to cause an apoplectic seizure in this country about the need to safeguard against nuclear weapons, reduce the number of nuclear weapons that now exist, and stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

It is our responsibility to provide the leadership to do that. That doesn't fall to anyone else; it falls to us.

Let me describe how the nuclear deal with India fits into this. Many countries want to possess nuclear weapons. North Korea, we believe, is now building them, and perhaps has them. I believe the administration said they believe that North Korea has actually produced nuclear weapons. We understand that the country of Iran is doing things that would lead it to be able to produce a nuclear weapon at some point in the future. We are concerned about that. Our country and others have been trying to prevent that from happening.

Our country invaded Iraq because we believed it had weapons of mass destruction. I heard a radio show this morning, with the fellow running the show saying that wasn't the case; that we invaded Iraq because Saddam Hussein was a bad guy. That is not true at all. Saddam Hussein is an evil man. We found him in a rat hole. He murdered people in his own country by the thousands, and he likely will, following trial, meet justice. I hope so. But we attacked Iraq because we believed, our intelligence community believed, and the American people were told, and the world community was told by Secretary Powell that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction that threatened the world and threatened us.

The point is that the threat of weapons of mass destruction is serious and real. It is serious and real because there are 25,000 or 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world. We have a lot of them. Russia has a lot of them. Other countries possess them. One of those countries is India.

Nowhere is the threat of nuclear war or nuclear terrorism, or the need to safeguard nuclear weapons more important than in South Asia, the home to al-Qaida, who seeks nuclear weapons. It is an area where relations among regional nuclear powers—China, India, Pakistan—have historically been tense. India and China fought a border war in 1962. India and Pakistan fought three major wars and had numerous smaller skirmishes. After both detonated nuclear weapons in 1998 and declared themselves nuclear powers, the