



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2007

No. 121

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord God, You alone are the creator and sustainer of the universe, so we pause to thank You for the gift of this day. May we show our gratitude by wisely using the gift of time in doing our best to serve You and to help one another.

Empower our Senators in their labors. Let the light of Your countenance calm every troubled thought and guide their feet in the way of peace. Grant them the ability to grow in wisdom and understanding so that they may know the best road to take in solving the problems of our world. Assure them of Your continued concern and love as You create tunnels of hope through mountains of despair. Be their helper and defender. Use them, Lord, for Your glory. Bring them safely through life's complexities into the refuge of Your amazing grace.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 26, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY 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. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour. Once that is closed, we will go back to the Homeland Security appropriations bill. There are no votes scheduled, although there are seven amendments pending. Perhaps we can dispose of some of those before lunch. We will certainly have some votes during the day.

Another issue which I have mentioned on many occasions is the 9/11 Commission recommendations conference report. That report was to be filed late last night. It is not available. It should be momentarily. We will make sure Senators have the opportunity to look at that. It is a large document.

Let's talk about this week. I know there is a trip scheduled this weekend. I contacted Senator BOXER last night and indicated to her I wasn't quite certain it would be able to take place. She was understanding and said I would have to do what I have to do, although she was disappointed. Maybe the trip can still go. It is a bipartisan trip to Greenland, led by Senators BOXER and ISAKSON.

We don't have a lot to do this week, but it could take a lot of time. We have 2 days. It is Thursday. We need to finish Homeland Security appropriations. I had a conversation last night with Senator CORNYN. We were waiting to get his language yesterday when we were trying to work something out for funding for the border. He had it written out in longhand. Anyway, we don't have it yet, but I am sure we will get that soon. Maybe we can complete that with a unanimous consent. Senator VOINOVICH indicated he wished to speak on it for a while but not long. So we want to accommodate him.

So we want to finish the bill we are on, either today or tomorrow. The other thing we need to do is complete the conference report. I hope we don't have to file cloture on the Homeland Security appropriations bill, which I have said many times I don't want to do. It is an open process, where people can file amendments, and they have done that. We hope we don't have to file cloture also on the conference report. What I wish to do—and I indicated this on a number of occasions—is to be able to start SCHIP on Monday. It appears that is pretty well set, what would happen when we get to that bill. It is a bipartisan bill that would be brought to the floor. There are a number of Senators who have worked on a substitute—Senator KYL, among others. That substitute would certainly be the main topic of the debate. I am confident there will be some other amendments offered, but that is the main issue as to whether the substitute would pass.

So children's health, we need to do that next week. I hope we can start it on Monday. Then the only other thing we need to do is to complete ethics and lobbying reform. As I have indicated, I wish to start another appropriations bill, but that would not take a vote during this session, though we would move to it before we leave. We would only do WRDA, the conference report

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



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on WRDA. It is my understanding the conference is basically completed, but we would only move to that if Senators BOXER and INHOFE indicated they wanted us to do that. I understand they do. It has wide-ranging bipartisan support. But that wasn't in my original package and that will not hold us up. The only thing that will hold us up is the bill we are on now, SCHIP, 9/11 Commission recommendations and the ethics and lobbying reform. So I hope we can complete those things in a timely fashion, and I hope we don't have to work this weekend. If we do because of cloture votes, then we will schedule those according to whatever the standard procedure is.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

COMPLETING PENDING ITEMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would say to my friend the majority leader, I think there is a good chance of completing the work he outlined before the August recess. We will be working with him to try to move those items along.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority and the second half of the time under the control of the Republicans.

The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

CAL RIPKEN, JR., HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise with a great deal of joy and enthusiasm this morning, as the senior Senator from Maryland, to be a part of what all of Maryland is doing today. We are on the road to Cooperstown. We are literally in our cars or renting transportation to be heading to Cooperstown, and we are going to Cooperstown in our hearts, because on Sunday, our beloved all-around Marylander, all-around American hero, Cal Ripken, Jr. will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

We are so excited about this because we want the world to know Cal Ripken as we know Cal Ripken. What a great guy. The world knows him as a fan-

tastic baseball player, and he certainly is. I will go into his record in a minute. But he is also a fantastic human being, a devoted father, a faithful husband, a man of the community, giving his time and energy to philanthropic work. When we call him the "Iron Man," he absolutely is.

Throughout his 21-year career, he has been the epitome of "Iron Man," both on and off the field. I watched Cal going from being unknown to being the best known baseball player from Baltimore since Babe Ruth. I was there that last day at Memorial Stadium, when we closed the stadium down, and I was there on opening day at Camden Yards, and Cal was there, and I will watch him as he is inducted into the Hall of Fame. For we Oriole fans, it was never "if" Cal would go into the Hall of Fame, it was simply when.

Now, all baseball fans know about something called "the streak." We remember the victory lap he took around Camden Yards on that very special night. As we were heading into that record-breaking, show-up-at-every-game Cal Ripken event, there was a countdown that was going on all over. At Camden Yards every day, they had the number when Cal would come out on the field. In my own office in the Hart Building, I had a great big banner for our own countdown.

There he was: 2,632 consecutive games. During that time, he hit 431 homeruns. He also started in 19 All-Star games. He won two American League Golden Glove awards, eight Silver Slugger awards, two American League Most Valuable Players, and the statistics go on.

But statistics don't tell the real Ripken story. We remember not the numbers, but we remember the man—the strong, dependable presence of Cal Ripken, Jr. Night after night, day after day, sometimes through injuries, through the wide range of emotions and pressures experienced as a major leaguer, at every game there he was: at third base, at shortstop, smiling at doing his job and doing it well.

I remember that fateful night when Cal broke the Lou Gehrig standing record. To see that banner drop from 2,130 to 2,131 and hear the admiration and the jubilation of the crowd in Baltimore is something I will always remember. The sustained cheers were never ending as Cal, urged by Rafael Palmeiro, took a lap around the field. It was a proud night for the Ripken family, for the Orioles, and for Maryland.

Mr. President, I wish you had been there that night. It was a magical night. Families came from all over to that game. Now, when I walked into Camden Yards, I thought maybe it would be a raucous night. Maybe it would be a spirit of New Year's Eve that we have in the Inner Harbor. But when you walked into Camden Yards, it was a quiet night. It was a respectful night. It had an air of great dignity. People were bringing their children.

They had come from all over. They knew that something very special was going to happen because of a very special man. That evening had as much dignity as the player himself.

Cal's accomplishments transcend well beyond the baseball field. His character and demeanor are reflected in the successes he experiences every day on the field and off the field. He shows up and gives his maximum effort in every aspect. He puts his family above all. He is a community philanthropist and is committed to living something called the "Ripken way." The Ripken way was something taught to him by his father, that very well-known baseball manager, Cal Ripken, Sr. Now, this Ripken way is something special. It isn't complex. Did the Ripkens hire a consultant or handlers to tell them about it? How did they do it? It came from their hearts, their experience, and their commitment to values.

The Ripken way is a value-driven leadership way. Its wisdom is to build great players and bind generations together. Here is what it is: No. 1, keep it simple. No. 2, explain the why of what you are doing to the people who are affected. Celebrate the individual. Make it fun and sweat those details and learn the little things so the big things can be done the right way. It emphasizes clarity, simplicity and, most of all, personal integrity.

I think the Ripken way is being used all over Maryland. It is used in our businesses and in our homes. It is in our hospitals, where Cal and his wife Kelly have contributed so much to children, and it is in our hearts today as we salute Cal Ripken and the wonderful honor he is receiving.

He applies the Ripken way on the ballfield and off the ballfield. He has established a foundation in his father's name: The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, which helps young people learn not only baseball but the values of sportsmanship and the values of integrity, honor, and fidelity, the things that do build iron in your character. This is the legacy which shapes Cal's life, and so he wants to pass it on. Cal may be the local boy, but he is now an international hero.

There is no question that Cal has earned his way into the Hall of Fame. We congratulate him on his very stellar career. We so admire his work ethic and his commitment to community, to country, and for the well-deserved honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame. While Cal has already achieved so much, I cannot help thinking about him that the best is yet to come.

On behalf of Senator CARDIN and myself, I will introduce to have referred to the appropriate committee a resolution commemorating Cal on his outstanding career in baseball and for his induction into the Hall of Fame.

Mr. President, these are tough times in the Senate. So when we can talk about something that really does deal with honor, fidelity, a commitment to