



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2005

No. 88

Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 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.

Eternal Lord God, give us today the gifts that bring us meaning. Shower us with the gifts of wisdom and courage so that we may choose right and strive to do Your bidding. Give us the gifts of strength and prudence, so that we will resist temptation and anticipate traps and snares. Bless our Senators with the gifts of diligence and perseverance, enabling them to accomplish the difficult and to never give up trying to do Your will.

Give them also the gifts of loyalty and forgiveness, so that they will be true to their friends and patient with their enemies. Give each of us the gift of purity, so that we will find pleasure in simple things and a desire to honor You in our thoughts and deeds.

We pray in Your loving 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 6, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, following the opening statement of the two leaders, we will proceed to passage of the Energy bill. A lot of work has gone into this bill at this point, and this upcoming final passage vote is one further step toward a national energy policy. We look forward to a good conference with the House to produce a final Energy bill for the President to sign.

Following that vote, we will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. Pending to that bill are approximately 40 first-degree amendments. The committee, over the course of the weekend and yesterday, had been reviewing those amendments and, hopefully, we can dispose of most of those amendments without rollcall votes. We will need to debate and vote on some of the pending amendments, and therefore we will have votes throughout the day. We would like to finish the Interior appropriations bill today, and I will be speaking shortly to the two managers with regard to progress that is being made.

We will be recessing from 12:30 to 2:15 today. When we conclude the Interior bill, the Senate will begin the Homeland Security appropriations bill, and we will finish that bill prior to the start of the July 4 recess. In addition to funding the work of the Department of Homeland Security, that legislation begins the hard work of enhancing the security of our borders. We will complete action on this piece of border security legislation this week.

It is also possible that the Senate could complete work on other appropriations bills beyond the two to which the minority leader and I have agreed. We will be working together with the chairman and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee to see what we can accomplish in addition to

the Interior and Homeland Security appropriations bills.

In addition, this morning, the Finance Committee is working on our free-trade agreement with several Central American countries. If the committee completes action on that, we would also take that up this week. Under the law, debate on the free-trade agreement would total no more than 20 hours equally divided, and we will do that later this week.

As I mentioned last week, we will also consider any other available conference reports or legislative or executive items that are ready for action throughout the week—the highway conference report extension, a welfare extension, as well as a series of important nominations that could be resolved this week as well: Lester Crawford to run our Food and Drug Administration, Tom Dorr to serve in the Department of Agriculture, Gordon English to serve in the Department of Homeland Defense. All of these are possible for action before the recess.

We are going to have a very busy final week and, I know, a productive week. We will be working through Friday. I want to announce to our colleagues once again, as I have before, that in all likelihood we will be voting on Friday, and intend to vote on Friday.

In addition, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized at 3:45 today, to be followed by Senator BUNNING, to be followed by Senator MCCONNELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield for a question on the schedule?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, this is the time to vote on H.R. 6.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent we be allowed to have the majority leader respond to a question.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S7451