



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1995

No. 181

Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You have told us in the Scriptures that there are blessings You grant only when we care enough to pray for each other. We also know how our attitudes are changed when we do pray for each other. We listen better and conflicts are resolved. We discover answers to problems together because prayer has made it easier to work out solutions. Also, when we pray for each other, You affirm our mutual caring by releasing supernatural power. Added to this, working together becomes more pleasant and more productive.

Knowing all this, we make a renewed commitment to pray for the people around us, those with whom we disagree politically and those with whom we sometimes find it difficult to work. If we pledge that we are one nation under You, dear God, help us to exemplify to our Nation what it means to be a Senate family, affirming unity in our diversity, held together with the bonds of loyalty to You and our Nation, and drawing on Your power for each other through prayer. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF SENATOR HELMS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from North Carolina, Senator HELMS, is recognized.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the equally able Presiding Officer.

I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to defer to the distinguished Senator from Texas, after which I shall be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KEMPTHORNE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If the Senator from Texas will suspend for a moment, 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 12:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

DISABLED VETERANS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I am here today to question this administration and the scaring of our veterans in this country. I was in Amarillo, TX, last Saturday and I was talking to a disabled veteran who depends very much on his veterans pension for himself and his family. He said, "Are we going to be paid?" because the news media were saying no.

I said, "Of course you will be paid." There is no way that a veteran's pension is any different from a welfare recipient's stipend or a Medicare part B payment. There is no difference whatsoever. Yet, amazingly to me, the Veterans' Administration is telling people who call that, in fact, veterans benefits will not be paid.

Mr. President, I question a President who says if, in fact, this stalemate continues, which, of course, we hope it will not, but if it does, that he will prioritize the payment of welfare recipients over the payment of our veterans who have served our country. It is unthinkable.

However, just to make sure that this does not happen, I talked to Senator ALAN SIMPSON this morning, who is the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Com-

mittee. He is going to cosponsor with me—it will be the Simpson-Hutchison bill—a bill that will, in fact, direct this administration to pay veterans benefits. We are going to direct this administration to put veterans in the same category as welfare recipients, Social Security recipients, hospitalization under Medicare recipients, and Medicare part B doctors payments as well. It should not even be a question.

Nevertheless, in order to make sure that this administration cannot play games with the veterans of this country, Senator SIMPSON and I are going to introduce a bill as soon as we can get it written, this afternoon, that will make sure that the veterans of this country will not have to worry if, in fact, this stalemate continues.

I wish the President of the United States would immediately say it is not necessary to pass this kind of law. I hope the President will be able to put out a little release this afternoon that says the veterans do not have to worry. The incoming cashflow is there and the President knows it. The head of the Veterans' Administration knows it. There is no reason to have these scare tactics used on the veterans of our country who have served our country and who deserve to be put in the highest of all categories. And, yet, this President is doing that. I call on him to say our bill, which is being readied right now, is not necessary and the veterans do not have to worry. He can do it with the stroke of a pen or a mere press release.

The priority is set. There is no question. I have consulted every congressional expert, every resource, every historical circumstance that I can find. Veterans have never been threatened. There is no reason for them to be threatened now.

Mr. President, Senator SIMPSON and I are going to introduce this legislation

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



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