



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1995

No. 197

Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation, our Creator, Sustainer, and loving heavenly Father, thank You for these moments of profound communion with You. We come to You just as we are with our hurts and hopes, fears and frustrations, problems and perplexities. We also come to You with great memories of how You have helped us when we trusted You in the past. Now, in the peace of Your presence, we sense a fresh touch of Your spirit. With receptive minds and hearts wide open, we receive the inspiration and love You give so generously. Make us secure in Your grace and confident in Your goodness. We need Your power to carry the heavy responsibilities placed upon us. Humbly we ask for divine inspiration for the decisions of this day. Since we are here to please You in all we do, our hope is that at the end of this day we will hear Your voice sounding in our souls. "Well done, good and faithful servant." In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, this morning until 10:40 a.m. there will be a period for closing debate on Senate Joint Resolution 31. At 10:40 a.m. the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. today. At 10:40 a.m. the Senate will proceed to the House Chamber to hear an address

by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to a joint meeting of the Congress which starts at 11 a.m. When the Senate reconvenes at 2:15 p.m., following 2 minutes of debate, the Senate will begin as many as five consecutive votes on amendments on Senate Joint Resolution 31. The first vote will be 15 minutes, the subsequent votes will be 10 minutes each, with 2 minutes of explanation in between each vote.

Following disposition of Senate Joint Resolution 31, it is the hope of the majority leader to turn to the consideration of the Bosnia legislation. In that the majority leader hopes to complete action on that matter by 12 noon on Wednesday, debate may go into the evening today if necessary. Therefore, votes are possible today on the Bosnia legislation.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

FLAG DESECRATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 31, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 31) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to grant Congress and the States the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

Pending:

Biden amendment No. 3093, in the nature of a substitute.

Hollings amendment No. 3095, to propose a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Hollings amendment No. 3096, to propose a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

McConnell amendment No. 3097, in the nature of a substitute.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today the Senate must decide whether this is freedom or the abuse of freedom—this right here—evidenced by this picture of the flag being burned by a bunch of antiflag activists.

Mr. President, it comes down to this: Will the Senate of the United States confuse liberty with license? Will the Senate of the United States deprive the people of the United States of the right to decide whether they wish to protect their beloved national symbol, Old Glory?

Is it not ridiculous that the American people are denied the right to protect their unique national symbol in the law?

We live in a time where standards have eroded. Civility and mutual respect—preconditions for the robust views in society—are in decline.

Individuals, rights are constantly expanded but responsibilities are shirked and scorned. Absolutes are ridiculed. Values are deemed relative. Nothing is sacred. There are no limits. Anything goes.

The commonsense testimony of R. Jack Powell, executive director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, before the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1989 is appropriate here:

Certainly, the idea of society is the banding together of individuals for the mutual protection of each individual. That includes, also, an idea that we have somehow lost in this country, and that is the reciprocal, willing giving up of that unlimited individual freedom so society can be cohesive and work. It would seem that those who want to talk about freedom ought to recognize the right of a society to say that there is a symbol, one symbol, which in standing for this great freedom for everyone of different opinions, different persuasions, different religions, and different backgrounds, society puts beyond the pale to trample with.

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



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

S 18373