



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996

No. 14

Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 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:

Dear God, our Father, we thank You for the blessings You release when Your people pray. The President and Vice President and their families, the Justices of the Supreme Court, the Members of the House of Representatives, and the men and women of this Senate, along with those of us who are privileged to work with them, are recipients of the impact of the prayers of intercession prayed by millions of Americans around the clock. Help us to remember that You are seeking to answer these prayers as we receive Your wisdom and guidance. May we never feel alone or only dependent on our own strength. Your mighty power is impinging on us here as a result of people's prayers. An unlimited supply of supernatural strength, wisdom, and vision from You is ready to be released.

Also, remind us that our ability to receive is dependent on our willingness to pray for each other here as we work together in the Senate. We recommit ourselves to be channels of prayer power not only to our friends and those with whom we agree, but also for those with whom we disagree, those we consider our political adversaries, and especially those who test our patience, or those we need to forgive. So, lift our life together from a battle zone of combative words to a caring community of leaders who pray for and communicate esteem for one another. Thank You for giving us unity in spirit as we deal with diversity of ideas. In our Lord's name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

THANKING THE SENATE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we thank our Chaplain for his assistance and his daily prayers and for his efforts this very morning with the Congressional Prayer Breakfast. We assure him of our prayers for him and his loved ones. We know it is a difficult circumstance he is dealing with at this time.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1541, the farm bill. Under the previous order, all Senators should be aware that there will be two cloture votes today beginning at 1:30 p.m. Additional rollcall votes can be expected in order to complete action on the farm bill today.

Also as a reminder, Senators have until 12 noon today to file first-degree amendments to the pending substitute and until 1 p.m. to file second-degree amendments.

Today, there will be a joint meeting of Congress at 11:45 a.m. to hear an address by the President of France, President Chirac. Members should be in the Chamber at 11:25 in order to proceed to the House of Representatives for the address.

Mr. President, I would like to also this morning make some brief remarks with regard to the need for truth in packaging on welfare reform. I observe the Senator from Indiana, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee is here. There may be a need for the others that are involved in the agriculture bill to come to the floor. So, if the Sen-

ator will indulge me just a couple minutes, I would like to talk with regard to what is happening with welfare reform.

WELFARE REFORM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, someday, perhaps a year from now, we will finally achieve genuine welfare reform to change welfare from the way we have known it, but it will not happen today. Indeed, it may not happen this year, not while President Clinton continues to brandish his veto pen against all efforts to clean up the welfare mess, to encourage work, and to help people who need assistance to get off welfare and get a job.

His first veto of welfare reform received little notice because it was part of our larger Balanced Budget Act. That legislation was long and complicated, touching upon many different programs. So the President was able to block welfare reform in the process of opposing other provisions in the bill.

His second veto of welfare reform likewise received scant attention because much of the country was distracted by the blizzard of 1996. It was vetoed late at night, and there was not much press coverage because most of official Washington was not paying attention. They were still concentrating on the overall budget agreement.

Now the President has promised a third veto of welfare reform, and he has done so in a way that blatantly violates his previous pledges on this issue. In an interview that appeared in yesterday's, that is Wednesday's, Washington Post, the President made clear that his earlier endorsement of the welfare reform bill that passed the Senate last fall is no longer operative.

The bill that passed the Senate was H.R. 4, which this body approved on September 19, 1995, by a strongly bipartisan vote of 87 to 12. It sailed through

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S671