



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1996

No. 106

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

Gracious God, knowledge of You is our purpose and our passion. It is also our greatest need and our most urgent desire. We really want to know You, not just as some distant creator and sustainer of the universe but as our Father and our Friend. We confess that often our lack of knowledge of You is the cause of our insecurity, our inconsistency, and our insufficiency. It also accounts for our vacillation in our prayers. We commit this day to seek to know You better. We open our true selves to You; we want to be real, honest, and vulnerable with You; we invite You to invade every aspect of our relationships and our responsibilities today. Show us Your will and give us the strength and courage to follow Your guidance. We dedicate ourselves to make knowledge of You our first priority. Show us Your grace and goodness, righteousness and power. We place our total trust in You, and we will live by faith in You today. Be the unseen but undeniable presence in every moment of this day.

Gracious Lord, as we seek to know You and understand You, we wonder why good people face difficult and painful things. We wonder about the crash of the TWA aircraft. We think of the young people and the sponsors who were with them from Montoursville, PA. We realize that Your most difficult decision was to allow this world to be free in which accidents can happen, wrong choices can be made. And we turn to You for Your strength and courage in the midst of questions that seem to be without answers. But we also know that in spite of everything, You are in control, and so we trust You as our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the Department of Defense appropriations bill.

Under a previous order, the Senate will proceed to a series of three rollcall votes on the remaining amendments and passage of the Department of Defense appropriations bill.

Following passage of the defense bill, the Senate will then proceed to the reconciliation bill, S. 1956. That matter will be considered under a 20-hour statutory limitation, and the majority leader is hopeful that under the 20-hour statutory time limitation, some time can be yielded back. Senators can expect rollcall votes throughout the day on amendments to the reconciliation bill and a late-night session is anticipated by the majority leader in the hopes of completing action on that matter today.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1894, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1894) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Harkin/Simon amendment No. 4492, relating to payments by the Department of De-

fense of restructuring costs associated with business combinations.

Levin amendment No. 4893, to strike funding for new production of F-16 aircraft in excess of six, and transfer the funding to increase funding for anti-terrorism support.

### AMENDMENT NO. 4492

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now proceed to rollcall votes with respect to amendments offered on Wednesday, July 17, with 2 minutes for explanation equally divided prior to each vote. The first amendment is No. 4492, the motion to table. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

Who yields time?

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I understand we have a minute on each side to explain the amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, all I can say is:

Remember the \$600 toilet seat and the \$500 hammers that had taxpayers up in arms during the mid-1980's. Today's subsidized mergers are going to make them look like bargains.

That is not my quote. That is a quote of Lawrence Korb, President Reagan's Under Secretary of Defense.

In 1993, DOD changed its policy to allow payments to defense contractors for the costs of mergers and acquisitions. The GAO and inspector general have both recently issued reports that seriously question DOD's purported savings.

This amendment simply puts a 1-year hold on merger costs while the GAO, the IG, and OMB put together a mechanism to make sure that future payments actually result in savings. It does not affect Government assistance to laid-off workers. It does not prohibit payment of any merger costs which DOD is contractually obligated to pay in the fiscal year 1997.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this amendment would prevent severance

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



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