



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005

No. 8

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by former Senate Chaplain Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie from Los Angeles, CA.

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and Lord of our lives, thank You for the gifts of life, intellect, good memories, and daring visions. We don't ask for challenges equal to our talents and training, education and experience; rather, we ask for opportunities equal to Your power and vision. Forgive us when we pare life down to what we could do on our own without Your power. Make us adventuresome, undaunted leaders who seek to know what You want done and attempt it because You will provide exactly what is needed to accomplish it. We thank You that tough times are nothing more than possibilities wrapped in negative attitudes.

Lord of the unfolding drama of history, we praise You for the triumph of the first free election in half a century in Iraq. We honor the courage of the millions of Iraqis who defied danger and reprisal to exercise their new liberty from tyranny.

We know that freedom is not free; it is the legacy of liberators of our Armed Forces, some of whom paid the supreme price to assure freedom for the people of Iraq. Help us to cherish our freedoms in America and never take for granted the privileges we enjoy.

Now bless the women and men of this Senate. Help them experience the palpable presence of Your Spirit and receive the incredible resilience You provide. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 1, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. MURKOWSKI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, this morning we have a period for morning business until 10:45. At 10:45, we will proceed to executive session for the consideration of the nomination of Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General. Chairman SPECTER will begin that debate. On this side, we are prepared to allow for a reasonable time for debate and then set a time certain for the vote. I hope that at an early hour today we will be able to lock in an agreement so that Members will be able to prepare accordingly. We do want all Senators to have the oppor-

tunity to come to the floor and express themselves and debate appropriately. Over the course of the morning, we will hopefully have more certainty in terms of when we will complete debate.

I do want to encourage Senators in the meantime to contact the chairman or the ranking member in order to facilitate an orderly schedule for speakers. I welcome the debate on Mr. Gonzales and look forward to the Senate acting on this important nomination.

Once again, I mentioned yesterday but I want to remind our colleagues today, we have a State of the Union Message tomorrow, a joint meeting of Congress at 9 p.m. We have asked Senators to gather in the Chamber beginning at 8:30 to proceed at 8:40 to the Hall of the House of Representatives tomorrow night.

I have a statement to make, but I would like to turn to the minority leader.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

### WELCOME TO FORMER CHAPLAIN OGILVIE

Mr. REID. Madam President, as the distinguished majority leader and I stood in the aisle, as soon as Reverend Ogilvie finished his prayer, the Republican leader leaned over to me and said, how about that voice, or words to that effect. Those were the exact memories I have of Dr. Ogilvie. I spent 5 years listening to his prayers every morning. As a result of that, I felt it was a good way to start the day. It brought back so many memories of our time together.

It seems that one of the requirements, at least with the last two chaplains we have had, is the voice. Dr.

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



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Black and Dr. Ogilvie have two of the finest voices I have ever heard and each time I hear them say something I become so envious that I have my voice and they have theirs.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, the Democratic leader is exactly right. That was our first comment. What is even more embarrassing is when you are side by side with either Lloyd Ogilvie or Chaplain Black and you have to sing, because their voices are so powerful, which does mean so much to us in terms of expressing feelings, emotion, and values. When it is applied to the beautiful voice of singing, it is especially embarrassing to me as they are next to me because the contrast is so dramatic.

It is a great pleasure for all of us to welcome Lloyd Ogilvie back with us this morning to open today with a prayer that struck at what we have seen the last couple of days, but also the real responsibility and obligations we have as Members of the Senate. We have been blessed with chaplains such as Chaplain Black and Chaplain Ogilvie to serve us and the American people so selflessly and unselfishly during our tenure.

#### TSUNAMI: LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I will comment on Judge Alberto Gonzales and his confirmation. Over the period for morning business, others will be coming by and speaking on the confirmation, although we do not officially begin until 10:45. Before doing that, I want to mention that tomorrow I will have the opportunity to testify before the Senate Commerce Committee. I was invited by Chairman STEVENS to speak on the long-term public health needs of the victims following the December 26 tsunami.

Early in January, Senator Mary Landrieu and I had the opportunity fairly early on in the recovery period to go to Sri Lanka where the observations were stark in many ways but in many ways inspiring, as we flew over the coastline in Sri Lanka and witnessed the unending devastation. We also saw on the ground the great outpouring of support, caring, and compassion, the best of humanity internationally but very specifically by Americans on the ground.

We all know from the tsunami we have the 5 million people who lost their homes and 150,000 people who lost their lives. The scars will be there for a long period of time. Senator STEVENS will have a hearing tomorrow to look at some appropriate initial responses in terms of prevention of that sort of catastrophe in the future. Tomorrow, I will be talking about a broad picture looking at public health issues such as cleaning of water and sanitation, and the role curing disease and public health can play as an expression of compassion and caring but also as a

wonderful currency of peace in its manifestation.

I will also be introducing legislation shortly addressing this whole challenge of water and the global issues surrounding water, the fact that 1.2 billion people in the world today do not have a clean glass of water. Unfortunately, these waterborne illnesses are the No. 1 killer of children in the world today because 1.2 billion people do not have access to that water.

We will be introducing legislation to address the global water supply, quality and quantity, that will address some of the basic issues, humanitarian in part but public health in large part as well. We can do a lot through our foreign assistance, where we have misdirected our foreign assistance or we have not even focused on water, which I believe it deserves. I will also mention the importance of having a global health corps that can respond to disaster in a way that we saw so many wonderful volunteers coming from around the world to respond to this tsunami. In the aftermath of a terrible tragedy such as this, medicine heals not only the body but also the hearts and minds. As the tsunami tragedy underscores so powerfully, medicine can act as a currency of peace.

#### NOMINATION OF ALBERTO GONZALES

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, today the debate and discussion throughout will be on the nomination of Judge Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General, and I am proud to be the first of many today to speak on this nomination and the strong support I have for this nominee. Judge Gonzales is a man of keen intellect, a man of high standing and achievement, and unwavering respect for the law. As our first Hispanic-American Attorney General, Judge Gonzales will stand as an inspiration to all Americans. He captures it in his life story. He is an outstanding choice to become our Nation's top law enforcement officer.

He has lived the American dream. We talk so much about the American dream. We point to people, parts of whose lives manifest the American dream. He lived it growing up in the town of Humble, TX, in a two-bedroom house shared by seven siblings and his mother and father. His parents, Pablo and Maria, were Mexican-American immigrants. They have little formal education. His dad completed second grade and that was it.

Inspired by his parents—as he tells it, their hard work—and spurred on by their encouragement, Judge Gonzales set his aspirations high and he was on the way. He has fulfilled them at every level. He played football and baseball in high school. On graduation, he joined the Air Force, from there enrolled in the Air Force Academy, and later transferred to Rice University. He became the first person in his family to go to college.

He didn't stop there. He was accepted at Harvard Law School, and with his Harvard law degree in hand he returned to Texas to join one of Houston's most respected law firms, and he was their first minority partner. At the firm, Judge Gonzales committed himself to the education of minority kids. He even helped create minority scholarships which to this day are awarded to those in need.

It didn't take long for people to recognize the tremendous talents of Judge Gonzales. He answered the call to public service. Newly elected Governor George Bush tapped Alberto Gonzales to join his administration as general counsel. He went on to become Texas's 100th secretary of state and then later a justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Every step of the way he has worked hard. He has won the respect of his peers. His integrity and talent have allowed him to receive numerous awards. Those sterling qualities have also garnered the trust and loyalty of the President of the United States. As counsel to the President for the last 4 years, he has been one of the President's closest advisers. President Bush credits Judge Gonzales for his candor and for his ability to remain steady in times of crisis—qualities that are essential in an Attorney General. As we all know, it has been noted that when President John F. Kennedy nominated his brother Robert to lead the Justice Department, the relationship worked so well because the President could count on his unflinching candor in times of crisis.

The biography of Judge Gonzales speaks for itself. I do think it is important to, up front, address some of the criticisms that have been leveled against him. More than a few facts have been lost in the debate. These issues will be talked about, I know, over the course of the morning.

First, President Bush does not have nor has his administration ever had an official Government policy condoning or authorizing torture or prisoner abuse. Let me restate for the record what the policy has been and continues to be from a Presidential memo dated February 7, 2002:

Our values as a Nation, values that we share with many nations in the world, call for us to treat detainees humanely, including those who are not legally entitled to such treatment. . . . As a matter of policy, the United States Armed Forces shall continue to treat detainees humanely and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of the Geneva Conventions [governing the laws of war.]

Second, neither Judge Gonzales nor the President have condoned nor advocated nor authorized the torture of prisoners. In fact, on numerous occasions both have explicitly condemned torture as an abhorrent interrogation technique.

Third, Judge Gonzales was not the author but he was the recipient of