



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005

No. 33

## Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. We look to You today, O God, maker of heaven and earth. Unless You lay the foundation of our plans, we labor in vain. Unless You guard our Nation, our efforts to find security are futile.

As Your servants in the Senate seek to do Your will today, make it clear to them the path they should follow. In the flowing of pressure, help them to hear the whisper of Your wisdom. Empower them to anticipate the forces that threaten the freedom of this good land. Plant in each of our hearts a reverential awe of You that will lead to life.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2006

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 18, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for the fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 and 2010.

### Pending:

Bingaman (for Smith) Amendment No. 204, to create a reserve fund for the establishment of a Bipartisan Medicaid Commission to consider and recommend appropriate reforms to the Medicaid program, and to strike Medicaid cuts to protect states and vulnerable populations.

Carper Amendment No. 207, to provide for full consideration of tax cuts in the Senate under regular order.

Snowe Amendment No. 214, to ensure that any savings associated with legislation that provides the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the authority to participate in the negotiation of contracts with manufacturers of covered part D drugs to achieve the best possible prices for such drugs under part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, that requires the Secretary to negotiate contracts with manufacturers of such drugs for each fallback prescription drug plan, and that requires the Secretary to participate in the negotiation for a contract for any such drug upon request of a prescription drug plan or an MA-PD plan, is reserved for reducing expenditures under such part.

Harkin Amendment No. 172, to restore the Perkins Vocational Education program and provide for deficit reduction paid for through the elimination of the phase out of the personal exemption limitation and itemized deduction limitation for high-income taxpayers now scheduled to start in 2006.

Hutchison Amendment No. 218, to fully fund the level of Border Patrol Agents authorized by the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 and as recommended by the 9/11 Commission.

Landrieu Amendment No. 219, to establish a reserve fund in the event that legislation is passed to provide a 50 percent tax credit to employers that continue to pay the salaries of Guard and Reserve employees who have been called to active duty.

Salazar/Conrad Amendment No. 215, to provide additional funding for rural education, rural health access, and rural health outreach programs.

Conrad (for Dorgan) Amendment No. 210, to repeal the tax subsidy for certain domestic companies which move manufacturing operations and American jobs offshore.

Collins (for Lieberman/Collins) Amendment No. 220, to protect the American people from terrorist attacks by restoring \$565 million in cuts to vital first-responder programs in the Department of Homeland Security, including the State Homeland Security Grant program, by providing \$150 million for port security grants and by providing \$140 million for 1,000 new border patrol agents.

Vitter Amendment No. 223, to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should provide dedicated funding for port security enhancements.

Vitter Amendment No. 224, to restore funding for Corps of Engineers environmental programs to fiscal year 2005 levels.

Allen Modified Amendment No. 197, to increase by \$1,582,700,000 over fiscal years 2006 through 2010 funding for Transportation (budget function 400) with the amount of the increase intended to be allocated to the Vehicle Systems account of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for subsonic and hypersonic aeronautics research.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will immediately resume consideration of the budget resolution. We have an order in place from last night which sets aside specific debate times in relation to several amendments this morning. There is no debate time remaining on the resolution beyond this time agreement. Senators, therefore, can expect a lengthy series of votes to begin sometime around 1:30 today. This vote-arama will necessitate continued cooperation from all Members. I cannot stress enough the importance of every Senator staying on the floor or very close by throughout the afternoon and into the evening. This is always a trying and challenging period because of the unusual nature of what happens over the course of the day. But beginning around 1:30, we will start a series of votes that will go on for a while.

I encourage my colleagues to work with the managers to use restraint in not offering amendments if they are purely message amendments and are not substantive. It is going to be a

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2875