



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2005

No. 60

Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Savior, lead us today as a shepherd. Guide our lives and inspire our hearts. May the talents gathered here on Capitol Hill help in the awesome task of bringing healing to our world.

Strengthen our lawmakers as they deal with unintended needs and unsolved problems. Make them eager to lift burdens and ready to respond in service to humanity.

Help each of us to feel a bit of the responsibility for the challenges that hang heavy over our land. In Your unflinching love, give us the wisdom to follow the leading of Your powerful providence.

Blessed be Your Name forever. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DAVID VITTER 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, May 10, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Sen-

ator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. VITTER 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. Mr. President, today we will have a 1-hour period of morning business with time equally divided between the majority and minority. Following that time, the Senate will proceed to the emergency supplemental appropriations conference report. Chairman COCHRAN will manage time on our side. We hope to reach shortly a consent to limit the time necessary on the conference report. We have not had many requests for time on our side. We hope to have a reasonable period of debate prior to the vote. It looks as if the vote will occur sometime this afternoon after the policy lunch recess. We will be recessing for the policy luncheons from 12:30 to 2:15 today.

Once we complete the supplemental appropriations, we will return to the highway bill. Chairman INHOFE has been encouraging Senators to offer their amendments. I join him in that statement. Senators should not delay in offering those amendments. Please come to the floor as soon as reasonable to offer those amendments. We want to finish the highway bill this week. Again, I advise Members that the clock is ticking on this bill.

I expect rollcall votes later today on amendments to the bill. As always, we will notify all Senators as the votes are scheduled.

MIDDLE EAST VISIT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, last week, I had the opportunity to travel throughout the Middle East. My stops included Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt. It was a fascinating and illuminating trip for me.

We saw firsthand many of the challenges facing that region. I came away with a much greater appreciation for the remarkable developments we have witnessed in that part of the world in recent months: The elections in the Palestinian Authority, the Cedar revolution in Lebanon, and the significant reforms taking place in Egypt. Progress and democracy are on the march.

Our first stop was in Jerusalem where we had the chance to explore the rich history of the old city, the heart of three of the world's major religions. We visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Temple Mount, the Western Wall. We had the opportunity to witness the site that is familiar to anyone who travels to that wonderful city of faiths. People were practicing their beliefs side by side, ways that in many ways are very different. That gives real confidence for the future when you experience it. I was truly overwhelmed, once again, by the old city's holiness and sense of history.

We met with several Israeli political leaders. Senator LIEBERMAN and I met with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Much of our discussion focused on that roadmap. The Prime Minister discussed with us his courageous decision to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. We discussed all of the contentious issues, issues such as those surrounding settlements. We discussed the importance of coordinating the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip with the Palestinians in order to ensure stability in the Gaza Strip and to ensure security in the Gaza Strip after the withdrawal. A lot of attention was placed on the withdrawal out of the Gaza Strip wherever we moved throughout the Middle East.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S4797