



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2005

No. 160

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 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.

Ever loving and eternal God, source of the light that never dims and of the love that never fails, help us to live in faithful expectation of Your triumph in our world. Fill us with hope that we will not become discouraged because of setbacks. Take away doubts that disturb us and worries that distract us. Empower our Senators to be instruments of Your purposes. Make them content to faithfully serve as they live in peace with others.

Give each of us the peace that passes understanding.

We pray in Your loving 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.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will begin a 30-minute period of morning business. When that time has expired, we will begin consideration of the House message to accompany the deficit reduction bill.

Last night the agreement we entered allows for up to 7 motions to instruct conferees. Several Members spoke to these motions, debating their motions yesterday. Today we will vote on those, prior to lunch.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that at 11:45 this morning we proceed to three consecutive votes, first on the Baucus motion to instruct, to be followed by the Carper motion, to be followed by the Harkin motion; provided further that there be 2 minutes equally divided for debate prior to each of the votes; finally, I ask unanimous consent that following the third vote the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 for the policy luncheon to meet.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, therefore, Senators can expect three votes beginning at 11:45 today. The remaining motions will be debated this morning and this afternoon, and those votes will be scheduled for Thursday afternoon at approximately 3:30.

Today we expect the PATRIOT Act conference report to arrive from the House. If we are unable to reach consent for a limited debate time, then I am prepared to file cloture on that conference report.

I do hope we can come to a consent for the debate time. If not, cloture can be expected. If that is the case, that vote would occur Friday morning. The Labor-Health and Human Services ap-

propriations conference report may also be available to the Senate today. I will be consulting with my colleagues about scheduling that vote as well.

In addition to the items I have mentioned, there is a number of other legislative and executive items that remain. These include the Defense authorization conference report, the Defense appropriations conference report.

As I have said over the last several days on the floor, I urge all Members to remain available and to adjust their schedules accordingly for the remainder of this week and into this weekend, and perhaps beyond as we schedule our final business of this year. We will make every effort to conclude our work as quickly as possible, but it will require the patience and cooperation of all Senators. As all of my colleagues understand, there is a lot of coordination with the House of Representatives with bills going back and forth.

I thank everyone for their help in advance as we move forward on these matters.

### COMBAT METH ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I briefly speak to an issue that is important to me and important to the American people. As we continue our debate on the PATRIOT Act conference report, I call my colleagues' attention to a special crimefighting provision that promises to thwart the No. 1 drug problem in America today, methamphetamine. The provision is called the Combat Meth Act. It enjoys broad bipartisan support in this body. It is a part of the PATRIOT Act legislation.

In particular, I want to thank my colleague from Missouri, Senator TALENT, for his tireless efforts in advancing this pressing issue. He has been focused on it, and he has talked to all of our colleagues about it. He very passionately expresses the need and the critical importance of this bill. He has

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



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