



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2007

No. 66

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who has promised to supply all our needs, strengthen our Senators to honor Your Name. Give them ears open to hear Your word, minds ready to accept Your truth, will ready to do Your commands, and hearts ready to respond to Your love.

Give them also a sure and certain faith to believe Your promises and never to despair. Infuse them with a love that is ready to forgive, eager to help, and quick to share. Let no disappointment quench their commitment to serve You faithfully. Give them the right and true ambition to find their greatness in serving others. We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 24, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER 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. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The first portion is controlled by the Republicans, the final portion under the control of the majority.

Following this period of morning business, the Senate will resume debate on S. 761, the competitiveness bill. Under an agreement entered last week, Senator COBURN is to be recognized today to speak for up to an hour on the bill. I am also aware of other speakers who have indicated a willingness to speak on the legislation. We hope we can accommodate their schedules because there are a number of people who want to speak.

At noon today, we will switch gears and consider Executive Calendar No. 76, the nomination of a judge from Mississippi, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, to be a U.S. district judge. There will be up to 10 minutes of debate and then a vote on confirmation. This time will be controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. Members can expect a rollcall vote today around 12:10. Once this nominee is confirmed, this will be the 16th district judge we have confirmed this year, 14 districts and 2 circuits. The Senate will recess for our regularly scheduled party conferences following the vote and will reconvene at 2:15 p.m. today.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein, the first 30 minutes under the control of the Republicans and the final 30 minutes under the control of the majority.

The Senator from Utah.

BORIS YELTSIN

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, may I, before I begin my comments prepared for today, make two quick comments.

No. 1, I note the passing of Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia and a major figure in the transition between the Communist rule and the present democracy that exists in Russia. Like many Members of the body, I had the opportunity to meet Boris Yeltsin. That is one of the privileges we have as Senators—we get to meet important people from around the world. I can't pretend to know him at all. I simply shook his hand and said hello. But I was in Russia not long after he took power, spent time in the U.S. Embassy there, and noted the impact he had on helping bring Russia into the modern world, the world of democracy, and out of the ancient world, the world of tyranny. He had his faults. He had his problems. But he played a pivotal role, and we should take a moment to recognize that fact.

The one quote attributed to him that I enjoyed personally with respect to our life here has to do with the Library of Congress. When my constituents come to Washington, I tell them: You need to go see the Library of Congress, the Jefferson Building. Aside from the

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



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