



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2007

No. 171

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.

O God, most holy, You are more ready to hear us than we are to pray, for You know our needs before we ask for help. Give us listening ears, responsive hearts, and willing spirits.

Bless our Senators. Fill their lives with meaning and shower them with Your wisdom. Reveal the issues that matter most so their labors will glorify You. Let Your love sustain them through the welter and variety of the legislative process. Finally, keep them from becoming weary in well doing. As they listen to Your commands, give them the assurance of a sure harvest.

We pray in Your righteous 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, November 6, 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, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for 1 hour today. Senators are permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the times equally divided and controlled, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

At the close of morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2419, the farm bill. As a reminder, the Senate will stand in recess today from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for the respective party conference meetings.

I mentioned yesterday that we have a lot to do this week, and we do. I have spoken with the Republican leader. The House is going to pass the conference report on Labor-HHS. As part of that conference report, there will also be military construction and the veterans' benefits. I have been told there is going to be a point of order raised against the military construction-VA aspect of that bill. In fact, if that is the case, we can set it up very quickly, as I explained to my Republican counterpart, to find out if there are 60 votes for that bill without the necessity of filing cloture. If, in fact, there are not 60 votes, that part, of course, will be peeled off, and we will pass the Labor-HHS bill, and it will go back to the House. The House will concur in what we had done, and the President would be sent the Labor-HHS bill alone. We

need to accomplish that work this week. We need to get our first appropriations bill to him—or bills, whatever the result.

As we speak—we started 5 minutes ago—the House and Senate conferees are meeting on the Defense appropriations bill. That conference will be wrapped up fairly soon. There has been a lot of preconference work done on the bill. We have Senators STEVENS and INOUE who have worked that bill for many years. They do very well with their House counterparts.

It is a huge bill. I don't know the exact amount—\$470 billion or some such amount. In addition to that, I think, as I told my friend, the Republican leader, the senior Senator from Kentucky, a continuing resolution will be put on the Defense bill just as it was done last year when Senator FRIST was majority leader. That we should get soon. We will get it in the next couple of days. And we have to finish that legislation before we leave this week.

It is extremely important that we don't wait until the last minute next week to take care of the Defense appropriations bill and the continuing resolution. That will leave us plenty to do next week. We have a lot to do, not the least of which is the Mukasey nomination which the Judiciary Committee will take care of this morning. That meeting also started 5 minutes ago.

We are on the farm bill. I will have more to say about the farm bill a little later, but I do want to say this regarding procedures and the farm bill. I have had some real good teachers over the years as to how to handle legislation. Some of those teachers have been my Republican counterparts. No one was more versed in so-called filling the tree than my friend, the distinguished Senator from Mississippi, Mr. LOTT.

We have just a few days until we break for Thanksgiving. This bill, the farm bill, is a tax bill. It has tax provisions in it. So I want to make sure everyone understands we should do all

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S13939