



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008

No. 71

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Creator of the Universe, help us to find meaning in our work. Train us to see Your purposes behind our task, motivating us to focus on pleasing You.

Empower our Senators. Give them the will and strength they need. Provide them with patience so they will neither despair nor grow weary in well doing. Give them confidence that in following You, Eternal Lord, they are certain of ultimate triumph. Let Your peace guard their hearts and Your wisdom direct their steps.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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. Madam President, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, if he decides to make such remarks, there will be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators to be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority will control the final 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2881, the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED"

Mr. REID. Madam President, 5 years ago on the deck of an aircraft carrier returning from the Middle East, America and the world witnessed perhaps the greatest act of hubris our country has ever seen in wartime. Resplendent in a flight suit, landing theatrically in a fighter jet, President Bush declared: "In the battle for Iraq, United States and our allies have prevailed." Above him was a banner, printed by the White House, with the idea coming from Karl Rove. That banner proclaimed "Mission Accomplished."

With families fleeing from Iraq by the tens of thousands to live as refugees, now approaching 2½ million—mission accomplished? With no government in place, with towns destroyed, with infrastructure in shambles—mission accomplished?

When President Bush put on his flight suit, 139 American troops had lost their lives. Today, the toll has reached 4,058 or 4,059. In April, with the highest death count in 7 months, 51 Americans were killed.

When President Bush landed on the runway of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, 548 Americans had been wounded. Today that count is far more than 30,000, many of those grave injuries.

When President Bush announced that "major combat operations have ended," the American taxpayers had spent about \$79 billion in Iraq. Today, \$526 billion and counting, we are spending \$5,000 every second, 7 days a week, every week of the month, every month of the year. Those costs are going up, not down, with experts such as Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz predicting \$3 trillion will be the cost of the war, with every penny of it borrowed—from Japan, from China, from Saudi Arabia, even from Mexico.

In May, 2003, many of our allies had already begun to stand apart from us on the war. Today, our moral authority in the world has been gravely damaged. Not one American looks back on the 5 years since that aircraft stunt with any sense of satisfaction. Our country looks back with grief, sadness, yet with a fierce and unwavering commitment to finally change the mission and responsibly end the war in Iraq and bring our troops home.

That day aboard the USS *Lincoln*, our President told us the war would not be endless. He said: "Americans, following a battle, want nothing more than to return home." He told the brave men and women aboard that carrier that home was their direction that day; that:

After service in the Afghan and Iraq theaters of the war, after 100,000 miles on the longest carrier deployment in U.S. history, you are homeward bound.

Madam President, let me again read that quote:

After service in the Afghan and Iraq theaters of the war, after 100,000 miles on 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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