



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

No. 91

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Eternal God, whose grace sustains us, You know us better than we know ourselves. You understand our going out and coming in and the things that challenge us.

Today, give wisdom to our lawmakers. Deliver them from the myth that they are self-made men and women, masters of their own destinies. Instead, may they seek Your guidance and know that You alone sustain our Nation and world. Lord, teach them to depend upon Your power and to serve Your sovereign purposes. May their humility match Your willingness to help them through all of the seasons of their labors.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN 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, June 4, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, following my remarks and the remarks of Senator MCCONNELL, there will be a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m., with the time equally divided and controlled. The majority will control the first 30 minutes, and the Republicans will control the next 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the budget conference report. There will be 15 minutes for debate equally divided prior to a vote on adoption of the conference report. Therefore, Senators should expect the first vote to begin at 11:45 a.m.

Upon disposition of the budget conference report, I expect the Senate to begin consideration of the climate change bill.

### 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, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, equally divided and

controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes.

The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my understanding is that I am recognized for 20 minutes. I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 20 minutes.

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

### CLIMATE SECURITY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, we will be once again taking up the pending bill dealing with global warming. It is a substantial piece of legislation. I am planning to speak later in the day as well, but I wish to take some time during morning business to talk about the overall bill as well as an amendment I may file later today on this legislation.

In terms of the issue of global warming, first let me say that there is little question left that something significant is happening to our planet. There is something happening to our climate that sometimes we don't quite understand. But among almost all scientists, there is nearly universal consensus that in the last 100 years, the temperature of the Earth has slightly warmed by 1.1 to 1.6 degrees. Through 2050, we expect further temperature increases unless we begin to address the continued concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

We are seeing evidence of these impacts. While no specific event is directly linked, we see droughts occurring more often, and this is certainly happening in my State of North Dakota. Heat waves are becoming more frequent, more intense, and more damaging. Further, the number of category 4 and 5 hurricanes has nearly doubled in the past 50 years. It is quite clear something is happening that we have

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



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