



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2008

No. 99

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2008

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, the Rock of Ages, giver of unchanging sources of stability and strength, guide our Senators for today's journey. Infuse them with the hope that will lift them into the light and peace of Your presence. Turn their shadows of doubt into the daybreak of faith. Defend them from the forces that nourish injustice and from indifference that causes hearts to break.

May they strive to please You both in will and deed. Lord, let nothing test them beyond their strength, for Yours is the authority and the power forever. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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, June 16, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB 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, today following leader remarks, there will be an hour of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, with the time until 5:30 equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. Under a previous order, the leaders will control the final 20 minutes, with the majority leader controlling the final 10 minutes.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator GRASSLEY control the time between 4:50 and 5 and Senator BAUCUS control the time between 5 and 5:10.

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

THE MIDDLE CLASS DREAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this Saturday, Jeff Alberici from Auburn, NY, delivered the Democratic weekly radio address. Jeff and his wife aren't rich; they aren't poor. They are squarely in the middle. They are middle class.

Jeff is a middle school teacher. He teaches American history. His wife is a teacher's assistant. Jeff said that if they didn't have to transport their three children to school and sports practice, they would probably ride bikes back and forth to work to save gas.

Jeff said when his wife returned to work last year, after staying home with their children, they thought the second income would give them a chance to pay off their debt and start saving for college. But that hasn't happened. Instead of getting ahead, the Alberici family's second income is covering the cost of food, and especially gasoline.

Jeff summed up things by saying that they will be fine. They are not in danger of losing their home, and they both have good steady jobs. They are not at risk. But instead of ordering pizza for an occasional dinner with the kids, now they have to eat grilled cheese on those occasions. And in the long term, they are not sure how they will be able to afford to send their children to college because they have basically not saved anything up to this date.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S5639