



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2004

No. 128

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

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

O God, our protector, mountains melt in Your presence and islands shout for joy. We praise You because Your ways are just and true. You know our hearts and minds like an open book. Thank You for the security we have in You. When all around us seems destined for disaster, You alone remain our rock and refuge.

Lead our national and international leaders on the right road and give them strength for the journey. Keep them safe as You provide them with the patience to wait for Your harvest. Save them from the plots of evil and from the enemies of freedom. Give them the courage to speak for justice.

Give us the grace to love and pray even for those who hurt and wrong us. We pray this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, good morning to everyone on this pleasant Saturday morning.

Today the Senate convenes for a rare weekend session. I believe it reflects our commitment to completing the

very important business that has a direct impact on Americans. That is why we are here. We have important business before us and we will complete that business.

This morning, we will have the concluding remarks and amendments to the Senate intelligence and homeland security reform resolution under last night's order. At 11:15, we will begin the series of rollcall votes, which will conclude our action on this resolution. There will be anywhere from three to five votes, depending on the number of amendments that have been worked out. The final vote in the sequence will be on a sense-of-the-Senate resolution on agricultural disasters.

Today, we will also consider any available conference reports that arrive from the House, and that includes appropriation measures, as well as the Department of Defense authorization.

We also have an agreement that the cloture vote on the FSC JOBS conference report will occur at 1 p.m. on Sunday. I hope that cloture is invoked and, once invoked, on the JOBS legislation, we can move expeditiously toward passage of that conference report.

With that said, although we have made great progress toward finishing the remaining items on our agenda, there is still work to do. Individual members will ultimately determine how long the Senate will remain to complete our business. As I have stated repeatedly, we will stay in session until our work is done. I ask those individual Members to give consideration to the business we have before us and to our commitment on completing this business, and that they give every consideration to scheduling in that regard.

We are here through the weekend to work toward our goal, and I will continue to work with Senators to see if we can expedite our schedule for finishing.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

COMPLETING THE SENATE'S WORK

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I also concur with the majority leader. I think today is going to be a very important day, because we will now have completed the first phase of the Senate's work in response to the 9/11 Commission recommendations. I have said this now on several occasions, but I think it bears repeating—it would not have happened were it not for the great effort made by the Senator from Kentucky and the Senator from Nevada, our two assistant leaders. I congratulate them and I appreciate their excellent work.

The majority leader also noted an interest and absolute necessity of finishing work on the foreign sales credit bill. I will be supporting cloture as well. I know there are all kinds of conflicting views about how many votes, what kind of votes, and what time the vote should be on Sunday. I know it is an inconvenience to a lot of Senators and we will try to accommodate those concerns as best we can. I think a Sunday vote—at least one—is unavoidable. I apologize to those who are inconvenienced. I don't think we have any choice given our circumstances. I also hope we can finish homeland security. As the majority leader has said on several occasions, it is important that we finish the homeland security bill. We cannot leave, as he has noted several times, without finishing that. It sends a terrible message to the country if we are not in a position to complete our work. I know the conferees are almost finished. So I hope we can complete our work over the course of the next several days.

We will work with the majority in making sure these unfinished items are completed, even though we cannot say

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



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