



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

No. 124

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord and King, You are forever. Send Your light and truth to guide our Senators. Give our lawmakers insights that will help them solve the riddles of our day. Empower them to possess discernment in order to know what is right. Imbue them with a passion for truth that will make them refuse to compromise principles.

Strengthen them also with a humility that seeks to listen and learn. May they find joy in their work as they seek to please You. Remove from them discouragement and despair. Make them partners with You in building a world where truth and righteousness will reign.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable John E. Sununu 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 28, 2006.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning after a period for the transaction of morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Military Commissions Act. Under the agreement that was reached yesterday, we have a limited number of amendments to consider and debate. Yesterday, we defeated the Levin substitute amendment, and Senator SPECTER offered his amendment on habeas. The Specter amendment is the pending amendment, and we will have more debate on it this morning.

Following the disposition of the Specter amendment, there are three additional amendments in order followed by a vote on passage of the bill. Once we conclude our work on this bill, we will return to the border fence bill with a cloture vote.

We still have a number of important items to complete before the recess, including the DOD appropriations conference report, additional conference reports that become available, executive items and nominations, and the child custody bill, on which I filed cloture yesterday.

We will have votes throughout the course of today's session and into the evening and over the remaining days until we complete our work.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

TIME TO SPEAK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding we have basically 3½ amendments remaining. We have one on which debate is nearing completion, and then we have three other amendments. We have an hour equally divided on each of those three amendments. On the amendment that is before the Senate dealing with the habeas corpus aspect of this legislation, we have a number of people—and we have conveyed this to the majority—who wish to speak. It takes up about an hour of extra time.

I say to everyone within the sound of my voice—namely, 44 Democrats, especially those who have indicated to the cloakroom they want to speak on this issue—we had time lined up yesterday, and because of quorum calls time was lost. Unless we get more time from the majority, there will be no time to speak, other than the time that is in the unanimous consent agreement that is the order before the Senate on the three amendments, and whatever time is remaining on the amendment being led by Senator SPECTER and Senator LEAHY.

Again, if somebody wants time, they can't always have it so when they get here, they can walk on. Senators might have to wait around for a little while because yesterday we lost a significant amount of Democratic time as a result of Senators not being available to speak.

We have a couple more days. Hopefully, we can finish this tomorrow or Saturday, but we have a lot to do. We will need cooperation from all Senators if, in fact, they want to cooperate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

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



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