



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2013

No. 77

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Because of You, God most high, we have strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Your presence sustains us, even in the midst of storms. Because of You, O God, we face the future confident that You will guide us with the same love with which You sustained us in the past.

Bless our Senators. May Your spirit be with them and may Your love follow them and their families this day and always.

Today we also thank You for our pages and the good work they do. As their graduation date approaches, bless them with the satisfaction that comes from work well done.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER 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. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2013.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN 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, following my remarks and those of Senator McCONNELL, we will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the farm bill.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

THANKING THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for giving the prayer and doing a wonderful job. Our pastor, who was supposed to give the prayer, was not here. We are all very proud of the Senator, and today we are especially proud of Gov. Deval Patrick for appointing Senator COWAN, as he has done a remarkably good job.

As we all know, there will be an election in 2 or 3 weeks to fill the seat, but Senator COWAN will be known as one of the nicest and most competent people I have served with in my many years in Congress.

Again, I thank the Senator very much.

GOODBYE TO SENATOR LAUTENBERG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this week the Senate will say goodbye to a valued friend and colleague, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG. The funeral for FRANK will be in New York. He is a great American success story and the Senate's last World War II veteran.

As I indicated, we will recognize his passing and celebration of his life. It has been made pretty clear that he will be buried in Arlington Friday afternoon.

Senator LAUTENBERG loved this institution, where he spent more than three decades. He would understand that its work must go on, despite our sorrow.

WORK TO BE DONE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this week work continues on the farm bill, which will create jobs, cut taxpayer subsidies, and reduce the deficit. Chairman STABENOW and Ranking Member COCHRAN have worked very hard to come up with a finite list of amendments. They are still trying to do that. I hope they can complete that today. I will give the managers as much time as we can to reach an agreement to consider a finite number of amendments to the farm bill.

I will not file cloture unless I have spoken more than once, before the day is out, to Senator STABENOW and Senator COCHRAN. I hope I don't have to file cloture on this legislation tonight, but we need to move forward. It is important to have ample time for debate on the immigration bill reported just a few weeks ago by the Judiciary Committee.

The Senate must move forward before the end of June to protect students from the rising cost of education by keeping the loan rates low. If we don't do something about that before the end of this month, it is going to more than double the rates. If we do nothing, it will double the rates. If we

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



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