



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014

No. 68

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, from whom all holy desires come and all good counsels do proceed, let Your presence be felt in our midst today. Crown the deliberations of our Senators with Your wisdom as You provide them with insights that will make a better world. Lord, help them to take charge of this day, meeting its joys with gratitude, its challenges with fortitude, and its doubts with faith. Guard them from error; deliver them from evil. Make them faithful servants of Your providential purposes, giving them consciences void of offense as they seek to glorify You.

We pray in Your faithful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 7, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY 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 the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, postcloture.

Postcloture time will expire at about a quarter to 6 this evening.

Senators will be notified whether and if any votes are scheduled today.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is not often I agree with what the Koch brothers say or do. Their radical agenda is normally so far out of the mainstream that it makes opposition to their agenda very easy.

So imagine my surprise when last week I read a quote from a Koch spokesperson in a Kansas newspaper. That is where they are based. Here is what the Koch brothers said:

We are not experts on climate change. We do believe there should be free and open debate on the climate issue and it should be based on sound science and intellectual honesty.

They go on to say:

The debate should take place among the scientific community, examining all points of view and void of politics, personal attacks and partisan agendas.

Listen to what they said: sound science and intellectual honesty from the Koch brothers on this issue.

Their statement sounds pretty good. I agree that the Koch brothers, Koch Industries, and their myriad political organizations are not experts on climate change—and that is an understatement.

I also agree that the debate on climate change should be based on sound science. In fact, the sound science has long been debated. The Presiding Officer has spent 38 years in Congress and has been one of the leading proponents of recognizing over the decades how our climate is changing. Everyone sees it is changing but not the Koch brothers, and I will explain a little more.

The sound science has long been debated and has reached a clear, unambiguous conclusion that climate change is here and it is real.

Of course Charles and David Koch know the debate on climate change is already taking place within the science community. They know that. The debate has been open and it has been free.

The overwhelming evidence proves that pollution is causing climate change.

No one has to take my word for it, including the multi-zillionaire Koch brothers—the two richest people in the world.

Just yesterday, the White House—not the White House; they announced it—released a report and an assessment that was authored by more than 300 scientists. Newspapers all over the world are talking about this.

One of the Hill newspapers we all read has a picture on the front that is stunning. It shows a picture of a man walking near a portion of a scenic highway that collapsed near Pensacola, FL. A new report—I am talking about the one released yesterday—finds climate change is rapidly—rapidly—turning the United States into a stormy and dangerous place and notes rising sea levels and natural disasters. The headline: “New Climate Report: People’s Lives Are at Risk.” Subhead: “Despite warnings, no signs of changed minds on Hill.”

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2741