



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018

No. 56

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father, God, as we bow our heads in Your presence, may we also lift our hearts to the guidance of Your Divine Providence.

Remind our lawmakers that they will seek and find You when they have passionately pursued You. May Your Holy Spirit bring them new life and hope, making them equal to their experiences and responsibilities. Lord, lead them on the upward way to a higher plane of unity and peace as they strive to hold aloft Your banners of truth, justice, and love.

Lord, we will continue to rejoice in You, for You are the God of our salvation.

We pray 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.

LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the letters of resignation from former Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi and of CINDY HYDE-SMITH from the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, which, without objection, are deemed read and spread upon the Journal and printed in full in the RECORD.

The letters follow:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2018.

Hon. PHIL BRYANT,
Governor, State of Mississippi,
Jackson, Mississippi.

DEAR GOVERNOR BRYANT: Serving as a Senator from Mississippi has been one of the great privileges and honors of my life. However, after much deliberation, I have decided I must leave the Senate before the end of my term.

I am, therefore, resigning my Senate seat effective 11:59 p.m. EST, April 1, 2018.

Respectfully,

THAD COCHRAN,
U.S. Senator.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE,
CINDY HYDE-SMITH, COMMIS-
SIONER.

March 30, 2018.

Governor PHIL BRYANT,
Office of the Governor, Jackson, MS.

DEAR GOVERNOR: I hereby tender my resignation as Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, effective 11:59pm, April 1st, 2018.

Sincerely,

CINDY HYDE-SMITH.

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificate of appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Thad Cochran of Mississippi. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate.

If there be no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the certificate was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Mississippi, I, Phil Bryant, the Governor of said State, do hereby appoint Cindy Hyde-Smith a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United

States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of William Thad Cochran, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Phil Bryant, and our seal hereto affixed at Jackson, Mississippi this 2nd day of April, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

PHIL BRYANT,
Governor.

C. DELBERT HOSEMANN, JR.,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-designate will now present herself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The Senator-designate, Cindy Hyde-Smith, escorted by Mr. WICKER, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to her by the Vice President; and she subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations, Senator.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING ZELL MILLER AND DANIEL AKAKA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to begin with a few words of tribute to two retired colleagues who passed away since we were last together.

On Friday, March 23, former Senator Zell Miller departed this life at the age

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



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