



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1996

No. 46

Senate

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, Sovereign of this Nation, we praise You for the gift of authentic hope. More than wishful thinking, yearning, or shallow optimism, we turn to You for lasting hope. We have learned that true hope is based on the expectation of the interventions of Your spirit that always are on time and in time. You are the intervening Lord of the Passover, the opening of the Red Sea, the giving of the Ten Commandments. You have vanquished the forces of evil, death, and fear through the cross and the Resurrection. All through the history of our Nation, You have blessed us with Your providential care. It is with gratitude that we affirm, "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord."—Psalm 33:12.

May this sacred season culminating in the Holy Week before us, including Passover, Good Friday, and Easter, be a time of rebirth of hope in us. May Your spirit of hope displace the discordant spirit of cynicism, discouragement, and disunity. Hope through us, O God of hope. Flow through us patiently until we hope for one another what You have hoped for us. Then Lord, give us the vision and courage to confront those problems that have made life seem hopeless for some people. Make us communicators of hope. We trust our lives, the work of the Senate, and the future of our Nation into Your all-powerful hands. In the name of the Hope of the World. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will conduct a period for morning business until 12:30 p.m., to accommodate a number of requests on both sides of the aisle. It is still the hope that the omnibus appropriations conference report will be available for consideration today. Senators should be aware that rollcall votes are possible throughout today's session of the Senate. The Senate may also consider any other legislative or executive items that can be cleared for action. At this time I think it is safe to say we just are not sure whether or not action will be completed on the omnibus appropriations bill, and if not, what other action may be taken; but I am sure that the appropriators will be meeting and working on this problem and trying to find a solution. As soon as information is received on that, it will be conveyed to the Senators.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] is recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that in that 30 minutes, I be permitted to speak for about 10 minutes, the Senator from Georgia for about 10 minutes, and the Senator from Texas for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, we are now well into this year, the second year of this congressional session, preparing to go on a recess, to go back to our districts, do our business. So it is sort of interesting to reflect a bit on where we are and I guess more importantly where we go.

It seems to me that this has been an extraordinary year, a year in which for the first time in 30 years, there has been a great effort to bring about a fundamental change in the operation of the Federal Government. Much of it, I think, results from the fact that the 1994 elections, at least to most of us, had a message. The message was, the Federal Government is too large, costs too much, and it is overregulated. And there are consequences, there are consequences to that.

Obviously, the consequence of being overregulated, one of them, is to keep a damper on the growth of the economy. It has to do with jobs, it has to do with wages. And we all want to change that.

The idea of overspending, of course, has a couple of consequences. One of them is that we enjoy the benefits, we continue to add cost to Government without paying for it, to put it on the credit card—on your credit card. And you will be paying for it.

The other is, of course, it takes more and more money from families, money that was earned by families, sent to the Government when more of it could be used by families themselves.

What has really happened over the 30 years is we tended to go ahead with the Great Society programs in the social arena. We tended to simply discuss here how much more do we put into the

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3171