



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1996

No. 83

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and gracious Father of our lives, thank You for enabling unity in diversity and oneness in spite of our differences. You hold us together when otherwise ideas and policies and resolutions would divide us. Make us sensitive to one another, especially when a vote makes conspicuous our differences. Help us to reach out to each other to affirm that we are one in our calling to lead our Nation. May we neither savor our victories nor nurse our disappointments, but press on.

So we fall on the knees of our hearts seeking Your blessings for our work this day. To know You is our greatest privilege and to grow in our knowledge of Your will is our most urgent need. Lord, our strength is insufficient; bless us with Your wisdom. Our vision is incomplete; bless us with Your hope. In Your holy name. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator DOLE from Kansas, is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. I thank the President pro tempore.

Mr. President, today, there will be a period for morning business for 2 hours, and rollcall votes could occur today on executive or legislative items cleared for action. We would like to work out some of the nominees, at least clear some of the nominees on the Executive Calendar, including some of the judi-

cial nominees. It has been suggested if that is not possible, we just start down the list one at a time. I am not certain that will happen today, but we will continue to work on it.

On Monday, it is hoped the Senate can begin debate on the budget resolution conference report. There is a statutory 10-hour time limit. Hopefully, we can resolve that today and work out some agreement. I am not certain how much time it will take. It should not take 10 hours on a conference report.

In any event, we will be in touch with our colleagues later sometime this morning. We are still working on health care. My view is we are very close. I am not certain what the White House view is, but I believe we have made a lot of progress. There has been a lot of give and take. Whether or not that will be complete by next Tuesday is problematical, but we are making progress and, hopefully, there can be some resolution. At least when it is taken up, it may have broad support. That may or may not be possible, but the Republicans will meet at 9:45 in my office, Republican conferees from the House and Senate.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAIG). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### BALANCING THE BUDGET

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to express regret over what happened yesterday. Yesterday was a very significant day in America. We had an opportunity yesterday to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Con-

stitution. Of course, it did not work out. We fell short by a couple votes.

It reminds me a little bit of last year when we fell short by one vote—one vote—one vote away from forcing fiscal discipline into two bodies that have expressed and shown and demonstrated no fiscal discipline over the past 40 years.

This is not anything that is new. I can remember, Mr. President, back in the middle 1970's when there was an ad by, I think, the National Taxpayers Union. They had a nationwide ad. They were trying to express to the people of America how serious the debt was, and tried to give us an understanding as to what these dollars really mean. Because once you start getting past \$1 million or \$1 billion or \$1 trillion, nobody really has any concept of what it is. Our debt right now, when you say \$5 trillion, does not mean an awful lot.

So back in the middle 1970's I can remember this very effective ad that they had. What they did at that time—the Empire State Building was a tall building—they took \$100 bills, and they stacked them up until they finally reached the height of the Empire State Building. They said, “That is \$400 billion. That is our national debt.” At that time we looked at it and said, “You know, we can't go much beyond this. You start talking about the interest that is going to be necessary to pay on the national debt. Can we really afford it?” Because when you make interest payments, you have to use revenue dollars that would otherwise go to defending our Nation or to paying for education and the environment and the other needs, structural needs that this Nation has in such abundance.

So at that time, back in the 1970's, I remember so well someone who was in this body for quite a lengthy period of time. His name was Carl Curtis. He was a U.S. Senator from Nebraska. He was just a delightful gentleman.

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



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