



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1997

No. 48

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1997

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 of Truth, who calls us to absolute honesty in everything we say, we renew our commitment to truth. In a time in which people no longer expect to hear the truth, or what's worse, see the need consistently to speak it, make us straight arrows who hit the target of absolute honesty. Help us to be people on whom others always can depend for unswerving integrity. Thank You for keeping us from those little white lies that later on need big black ones to cover them up. May the reliability of our words earn us the right to give righteous leadership. Thank you for the wonderful freedom that comes from a consistency between what we promise and what we do. You are present where truth is spoken. Thank You for reigning supreme in this Senate Chamber today. Now, dear Lord, we intercede for the distressed people of Grand Forks, ND, as they battle the rising waters of the Red River. Give them strength, but, dear Lord, please bring to an end the devastation of this flood. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business to accommodate a number of Senators who wish to speak on a variety of subjects. There will be no roll-call votes, however, during today's session due to the observance of Passover. I remind my colleagues that the weekly party luncheons normally held today will be held tomorrow, Wednesday.

By the unanimous consent agreed to on Thursday of last week, the Senate will begin consideration of the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty tomorrow with, I believe, 10 hours of debate allowed. Then on Thursday there will be five motions to strike with 1 hour of debate on each of those and, presumably, votes on each one of the five, with the expectation of a final vote around 6 o'clock on Thursday.

Under the previously agreed time agreement, Senators can anticipate votes on the treaty as early as Wednesday afternoon—I want to emphasize that—as well as a variety of votes on Thursday morning and throughout Thursday. As always, we will notify Senators of any scheduled votes or changes as soon as possible, or actions we wish to take on the Executive Calendar.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, noting that nobody has been seeking to be recognized for about a half-hour, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for not to exceed 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

### THE CRISIS IN OUR FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have noted on the floor of the Senate a number of times, the crisis in our Federal judiciary that Chief Justice Rehnquist has spoken of. The Chief Justice and others have spoken about the nearly 100 vacancies in our Federal judiciary at the district court level, at the court of appeals level, and at the Federal court of appeals level. So far in this Congress—we have been in session now for 4 months—we have confirmed only two Federal judges. It is a form of zero population growth, as far as the Federal judiciary is concerned. We seem to have this idea that if we do not get Federal judges we can, somehow—I am not sure what we think we are going to do.

I will tell you one of the things we have not done. In a number of jurisdictions we are reaching a crisis situation where, instead of being able to have criminal cases tried, instead of prosecutors being able to seek tough penalties, they have to plea bargain because they know they must keep up with speedy trial mandates, yet there

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



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