



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1998

No. 38

Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon 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, Ultimate Sovereign of this Nation and of our lives, we commit this week to seeking and doing Your will. We all desire to do what is best for our Nation. Help us to wait on You and listen patiently for Your voice whispering in our souls solutions for the complexities we face. Guide us to express our convictions with courage but also with openness to others. We have in common our trust in You and our dedication to serve our Nation. We relinquish our desire simply to win in a contest of wills or party loyalties. If we all seek You and Your righteousness, we know You will show us the answer. For Your name's sake and the good of America. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. HAGEL. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HAGEL. Today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m., at which time the Senate will resume consideration of the budget resolution. As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes conducted during today's session. However, the managers do expect amendments to be offered, and the next rollcall vote will occur on Tuesday morning at a time to be determined by the majority leader. As always, Members will be notified as to the time of those votes.

In addition, today the Senate may consider any executive or legislative

business cleared for Senate action. In regard to the balance of the week, the Senate is expected to complete action on the budget resolution and the supplemental appropriations conference report, if available, prior to recessing for the Easter holidays. Therefore, Members can anticipate a very busy week of floor action.

As a reminder to Members, the next rollcall vote will occur on Tuesday at a time yet to be determined. It will be announced later.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

SPENDING AND TAXES

Mr. THOMAS. I will take some time, and I think I will be joined by at least one Member, to talk just a little bit about spending and taxes in general.

We are coming into a time, of course, this week, and I suspect now for a number of weeks, when the focus of this Congress will be budgets, on appropriations, on spending, as it should be. I want to talk a little bit about at least my perception of some of the broader objectives that go into debate that extends beyond mathematics, that extends beyond the dollars—actually measures these dollars, about how spending really impacts on the philosophy of government, how spending impacts upon the priorities that we have here in the Congress, how spending im-

pacts upon our whole philosophy of whether or not we want to increasingly have a larger Federal Government delving into all activities of our lives, or whether, in fact, there is a limited role for the Federal Government as opposed to State and local governments, and if so, then what does our decision reflecting spending have to do with that.

It does seem to me that one of the real issues that we have is the extent and the role of the Federal Government's involvement in all the activities in our country. Many would argue, and I argue, that the Constitution clearly defines that there is a limited role for the Federal Government. As a matter of fact, I think it says in the 10th amendment that those things not precisely and clearly described in the Constitution are left to the States and to the people. I take that part of the Constitution very seriously.

As we talk about problems that arise throughout the country, some of them are appropriate to take care of in the Federal Government, some are not. We find on almost everything we talk about, not always recognized, not always defined, but I think if you look through the things we talk about, it is the basic first decision that probably should be talked about.

We talk a lot about balancing the budget. We balanced the budget last year for the first time in, what, 25 years. That was when income reached expenditures for the first time in 25 years. That is an excellent start. I think it is something this Congress ought to be particularly proud of. It is an excellent start.

But you can balance the budget at almost any level if you continue to increase revenues, increase taxes, increase the burden of taxes on the American people. You can increase revenues and spending can go on and still be balanced, and it gets away from the

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



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