



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1998

No. 66

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

Almighty God, we commit ourselves to cherish each unfolding moment of this day You have given us, to enjoy You and the precious hours filled with opportunities to serve You.

Thank You for Your presence. Guide our thinking, so that we may know Your will. Abide in our hearts, so that we may be filled with love and sensitivity for the people around us; bless our conversations, so that we may glorify You; linger on our lips, so that we may speak truth in love; and rest on our countenances, so that no grimness may hide the grace You have given us so lavishly.

Grant that, all through this day, everyone with whom we work and everyone we meet may see the reflection of Your joy in us. Make us a blessing for those laden with burdens, a lift for those bogged down with worries, and a source of hope for those who don't know where to turn. Lord, help us to care as You have cared for us. Through our Lord and Saviour, Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, may I say the President looks very well this morning, and we are certainly glad that he is with us to open the Senate, as he is on every day that the Senate is in session.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the Gregg-Leahy amendment pending to the tobacco legislation. It is the chairman's intention to move to table the Gregg-Leahy amendment at approximately 11 a.m.

I want to point out that that vote may be a little later, because I had a large number of Senators who have asked to speak before that vote. So that may be delayed past 11 a.m. All Senators will be notified when that vote occurs.

Following that vote, it is believed that the Democrats will be prepared to offer an amendment under a short time agreement. Following disposition of the Democrat amendment, it is hoped that the Senate could then consider the farmers' protection issue.

Therefore, the first vote of today's session is expected sometime after 11 a.m., and Members should expect roll-call votes throughout today's session in order to make good progress on this important tobacco legislation.

Also at the end of this week, it is hoped that the Senate will be able to complete action on the ISTEPA conference report, if available, and the Iran sanctions bill under a previous consent agreement.

Once again, the cooperation of all Senators will be necessary for the Senate to complete its work prior to the Memorial Day recess.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

NATIONAL TOBACCO POLICY AND YOUTH SMOKING REDUCTION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to S. 1415, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1415) to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Gregg/Leahy amendment No. 2433 (to amendment No. 2420), to modify the provisions relating to civil liability for tobacco manufacturers.

Gregg/Leahy amendment No. 2434 (to amendment No. 2420), in the nature of a substitute.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I note the presence of the Senator from Massachusetts who wishes to speak. I will yield the floor in just a minute, because I don't want to have him delayed, because I know he has a schedule. Of course, I note the presence on the floor of the sponsor of the pending amendment, Senator GREGG of New Hampshire.

Mr. President, I thought yesterday we made good progress. We have addressed the issue of attorneys' fees, although I don't believe that will be the final consideration of that issue since there are some very strongly held views on it. But we did have good and vigorous debate on that issue.

Yesterday, also, I think the parameters of this legislation were determined to a significant degree when the Ashcroft amendment was tabled. Then the majority of the Senate decided that we would not remove these fees that will be imposed on the tobacco industry as part of this legislation and settlement.

On the other side, when the Kennedy amendment was rejected, also the majority of the Senate declared its position at \$1.10, which was approximately where the price of a pack of cigarettes would be.

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



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

S5247