



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1998

No. 104

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, whose love casts out fear, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. We come to You for the replenishment of our souls. Grant us a profound experience of Your concern for each of us, as if there were only one of us, and yet, for all of us as we work together. Break down the walls we build around our souls. So often, we hold You at arm's length, usually when we need You the most. Make our souls Your home. Fill us with the security and serenity we need to face the challenges of this day. Bless the women and men of this Senate. Grip them with the conviction that their labors today are sacred and that they will be given supernatural strength, vision, and guidance. Thank You in advance for a truly productive day. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Colorado, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill. Senator ASHCROFT will be immediately recognized to offer his marriage penalty amendment. It is expected a motion to table the Ashcroft amendment will be offered after a reasonable amount of debate time. Following that vote, it is hoped that Members will come to the floor to offer and debate remaining amendments on the Treasury bill.

Upon disposition of the Treasury appropriations bill, the Senate may begin consideration of the foreign operations appropriations bill, health care reform, any other appropriations bills or conference reports as available, and any other legislative or executive items cleared for action. Therefore, Members should expect a late night session, with votes throughout the day, as the Senate attempts to complete its work prior to the August recess.

Finally, the leader would like to remind Members that the Senate will recess today from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow the weekly party caucuses to meet.

I thank the President and yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 2312, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2312) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Thompson amendment No. 3353, to require the addition of use of forced or indentured child labor to the list of grounds on which a potential contractor may be debarred or suspended from eligibility for award of a Federal Government contract.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Missouri, Mr. ASHCROFT, is recognized

to offer an amendment regarding the marriage penalty.

Mr. ASHCROFT addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, in collaborating with my colleague, the Senator from Kansas, I have agreed with him that he would offer the amendment on the floor.

Mr. BROWNBACK addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

AMENDMENT NO. 3359

(Purpose: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that married couples may file a combined return under which each spouse is taxed using the rates applicable to unmarried individuals)

Mr. BROWNBACK. I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK], for himself, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire and Mrs. HUTCHISON, proposes an amendment numbered 3359.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. ____ COMBINED RETURN TO WHICH UNMARRIED RATES APPLY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part II of subchapter A of chapter 61 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to income tax returns) is amended by inserting after section 6013 the following new section:

“SEC. 6013A. COMBINED RETURN WITH SEPARATE RATES.

“(a) GENERAL RULE.—A husband and wife may make a combined return of income taxes under subtitle A under which—

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



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