



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 147

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2001

No. 74

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

In the book of the prophet Amos, the Lord tells us:

I hate and despise your feasts,
I want none of your burnt offerings.
Let me have no more of the din of your chanting,
No more of your strumming on harps.
But let justice flow like water,
And integrity like an unfailing stream.

Let us pray.

Lord God, we praise You and bless You for the many gifts You have given to the United States, and for the gifts You have given to the men and women who serve in the Senate. Let our feasts be to come to the aid of the poor and the oppressed. Let our song be to practice justice, and let our sacrifice be the offering of a humble and contrite heart. Then, when our lips sing Your praise, You will listen to our song. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE ALLEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 25, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALLEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 10 minutes.

Under the previous order, there will now be 30 minutes under the control of the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, or his designee.

The Senator from Minnesota.
Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

STEEL REVITALIZATION ACT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Steel Revitalization Act of 2001. This is the companion measure to H.R. 808 which, as of this moment, has 189 cosponsors in the House of Representatives. The measure represents a comprehensive approach to a serious crisis which is facing our domestic iron ore and steel industry.

Several of the provisions contained in this act are ones that my colleagues in the bipartisan Steel Caucus have in-

troduced in the Senate. I particularly thank Senators ROCKEFELLER and SPECTER for their work in cochairing this caucus, and Senator BYRD for his unflinching support of the entire steel industry and his creative efforts on behalf of the industry's working families. A special thank you to Senator ROCKEFELLER, who has been absolutely the leader on this issue.

The Steel Revitalization Act includes the following components:

First, there is import relief. We go back to a 5-year period of quantitative restrictions on the import of iron ore. We go back prior to the import surge in 1997. We go to a 3-year average. That is where we hold the line. Between February and March, 2001, there was a 40-percent surge in the import of steel or semifinished steel, way under the cost of production, constituting unfair trade and putting people out of work.

Second, there is creation of a steelworker retiree health care fund which is administered by the steelworker retiree health care board at the Department of Labor. This fund would be underwritten through a 1.5-percent surcharge on the sale of all steel products in the United States, both imported and domestic.

One of the awful things about what is going on is many of the retirees worked their whole life, thought they had health care coverage, and are terrified they will not have the health care coverage. A 70-year-old struggling with cancer now is worried there will be no health care coverage.

Third, we have the enhancement of the current Steel Loan Guarantee Program which provides the steel companies greater access to funds needed to invest in capital improvements to take advantage of the latest technological advancements.

Finally, we have the creation of a \$500 million grant program at the Department of Commerce to help defray the costs of environmental mitigation and the restructuring as a result of

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



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