



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2003

No. 55

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Campbell Gillon, pastor emeritus of Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, well do we know that truth is the first casualty of war, yet through every sandstorm of spin or lie these truths stand—the dead are mourned, and we mourn them; the bereaved and suffering are prayed for and aided, and we pray for them; the motives of each side are clearly revealed either through their methods of atrocity and fear or in their actions of civilian-sparing strikes and humanitarian help.

O God of truth, hear our prayer. We live in a world where moral confusion is encouraged by some who wave the wishful wand of relativism and behold, nothing is truth or lie, good or evil. Thus is swallowed the tempter's ancient bait to be "as gods"—setting rules that suit, obliterating those that don't, reducing all to a mere matter of opinion.

Thy word, O God, is still truth not opinion. Those who delight in thy law, as the first Psalm tells us, flourish like a fruitful tree. Their way is known to Thee. The evil are not so. Their path peters out.

Teach us, O Lord, that Thy very nature is the truth of things. Before Thee no lie can last. Show us that the proof of truth is its ultimate consequences in rejoicing, not regret; in the spirit's freedom, not in self-forged chains; in vision, not venality; in a purpose that enlarges life, not in soul-destroying cynicism.

O God, grant grace to this great Nation as it strives in a noble cause to bring liberty and may we all be blessed

with desire for such truth as makes and keeps us free indeed. Let the lodestar of Truth be the beacon to guide these Senators on their paths of decision, as individually they get their daily bearings, and collectively think and act in good faith for the benefit of this people and the world. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period for morning business until the hour of 5 p.m. As we have done previously, the first hour of today's morning business will be devoted to expressions in support of our Armed Forces personnel in Iraq. At 5 p.m. today, the Senate will proceed to the first rollcall vote of the week. The vote will be on the confirmation of Cormac Carney to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California. Although this will be the 15th judge confirmed this year, I am concerned that the Senate has only acted on two circuit court nominations. There are six circuit nominations on the calendar and 11 additional nominations in committee.

Following the scheduled 5 p.m. vote, the Senate will begin consideration of the next circuit court nomination on the calendar, the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. There are

Members on both sides of the aisle who will probably want to speak in relation to this nominee, and I hope some Members will be available to give their remarks this evening.

On Tuesday, in addition to the judicial nomination mentioned, the Senate is expected to consider the CARE legislation under the consent agreement reached last week. I expect the Senate would begin the bill on Tuesday and finish the remaining debate and votes on Wednesday.

This week we are still trying to reach agreements with respect to the FISA bill, the Foreign Intelligence Service Act, the bioshield bill, a POW resolution, as well as any additional nominations that can be cleared. We will also be considering the budget and supplemental conference reports this week as they become available.

This is our last legislative week prior to the April recess and all Members should be prepared for a full week as we attempt to finish a number of outstanding issues. I thank all Members in advance for their consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the majority leader finishes, I ask him are we going to vote on the California judge today, and then did he say he is going to go to Owen next?

Mr. FRIST. That is correct, Mr. President.

Mr. REID. The majority leader is going to move to that tonight?

Mr. FRIST. Yes, we will.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, very briefly, before turning to my colleagues, I want to recognize the commitment and sacrifice of Tennessee citizen soldiers. One thousand Tennessee National Guard troops and airmen have been deployed to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Another 3,000 have been activated and await deployment. These

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



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