United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2005 No. 5

Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who blesses and protects those who run to You for hope, You are our hiding place. You protect us from trouble and You put songs in our hearts. Forgive us when we have failed to act because of the paralysis of analysis. Remind us that all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.

Thank You for Your unfailing promises that illuminate our past through life. Thank You also for the privilege to serve and honor You.

Give our lawmakers wisdom for today's challenges. Point out to them the road they should follow. Be their teacher and watch over them as Your kindness provides them with a shield.

Strengthen our Nation with right living, and may each citizen live for Your honor. Protect our military and all who fight for freedom. We pray this in Your Holy Name. 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will have a 60-minute period for morning business to allow Senators to make statements. Following that 1-hour period, the Senate will proceed to executive session for the consideration of the nomination of Condoleezza Rice to be Secretary of State. Chairman LUGAR will be here to manage the debate time on our side of the aisle. The order does provide for up to 9 hours of debate during today's session. I am not sure if all of that debate time will be necessary, but we do want to give every Senator the opportunity to speak if they so wish. We will remain in session until that debate is used or yielded back over the course of the afternoon or into the evening.

Tomorrow morning, for the information of our colleagues, the consent agreement allows for 40 minutes of closing remarks, and I now ask unanimous consent that the time, 60 minutes, be equally divided prior to the vote on the nomination. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent for that 60 minutes at this juncture.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. I expect that tomorrow morning we would begin that final debate on the Rice nomination immediately upon convening. I will be talking with the Democratic leadership, but I would like to convene and go straight to that debate.

I would also add that the Nicholson nomination for Secretary of Veterans Affairs was reported yesterday. We will be asking for a short time agreement on that nomination. As I mentioned yesterday, as the nominations do come from committee, we do want to consider them as soon as possible on the floor of the Senate.

Lastly, I remind my colleagues there will be additional nominations this week, and although this week will be a shorter week—we will be in session today and tomorrow—we will be seeking agreements over the course of this afternoon and tomorrow to proceed on these other nominations.

Mr. President I have a brief opening statement, but I would like to turn to the assistant Democratic leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. If the majority leader will yield, consent has just been granted for 60 minutes of time for closing debate on the nomination of Condoleezza Rice, and the Democrats would like to allocate the 30 minutes we are allocated with 20 minutes to Senator BIDEN, 5 minutes to Senator BYRD, and 5 minutes to Senator BOXER.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, when Soviet troops reached Auschwitz in January 1945, they found only a few thousand thin, frail, emaciated survivors. SS soldiers, determined to carry out the final solution, had forced most of the surviving prisoners on a long death march into the heart of the Reich.

As they retreated, the German forces destroyed most of the warehouses and many of the documents at Auschwitz. But what they left stunned even the battle-hardened Soviet troops. One soldier describes the camp's inmates as ''skin and bones [who] could hardly stand on their feet.''

Soviet troops discovered hundreds of men's suits, more than 800,000 women's outfits, and more than 14,000 pounds of human hair.

One survivor recalls:

What was Auschwitz? It was hell. Hell. A death factory. If you weren't gassed, you were exhausted to death. If you weren't exhausted to death, you starved. If you didn't starve, you died of disease.

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

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