



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2005

No. 66

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the fountain of light and wisdom, without Whom nothing is holy and nothing prevails, You have challenged us to let our lights shine, so that people can see our good works and glorify Your Name.

Today, shine the light of Your presence through our Senators and illuminate our Nation and world. Permit this light to be a beacon of hope for emerging democracies and a gleam of encouragement for freedom fighters. Use this light to provide a model of patience and peace to a world searching for direction.

Lord, let this brightness bring hope where there is despair, unity where there is division, and joy where there is sadness. Remind each of us that it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness. We pray in the Name of the One Who is the Light of the World. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWBACK 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 18, 2005.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWBACK 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, we will begin debate on one of the judicial nominations pending on the Executive Calendar. In a moment, we will enter into a consent agreement to begin the consideration of Priscilla Owen to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

I have consulted with the Democratic leader, and we hope to have an orderly debate for Members to come to the floor to make their statements. To facilitate that process, we will rotate back and forth between the aisle every 60 minutes. I will have a short statement, the Democratic leader will have a statement following mine, and then we will begin the rotation back and forth. I look forward to this debate, and I hope all Members will take the opportunity to participate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PRISCILLA RICHMAN OWEN TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to executive session to consider calendar No. 71, the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit; provided further that the first hour of debate, from 9:45 to 10:45, be under the control of the majority leader or his designee; further that the next hour, from 10:45 to 11:45, be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; and the time for debate rotate in a similar manner every 60 minutes; provided further that the Senate recess from 3:45 to 4:45 to accommodate an all-Senators briefing; provided further that the time from 5:45 to 7:15 be under the control of the Democratic leader and the time from 7:15 to 7:45 be under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first of all, I would ask the distinguished majority leader to amend his unanimous consent request to have the time begin when we complete our statements today. We might not be at a quarter of the hour, but whenever that would be we would rotate on an hourly basis.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have no objection.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modified request?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have another reservation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would ask the distinguished majority leader would we not be better off moving to

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



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