



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005

No. 131

## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, You alone can strengthen us to do Your will. Strengthen us to trust You when life brings more shadows than sunshine. Strengthen us to have faith, faith in You, even when doubts assail. Strengthen us with hope when things seem at their worst.

Strengthen the Members of this body with a reliance upon Your loving and powerful providence. Remind each Senator that all things work together for the good of those who love You. Strengthen us all to fight the good fight, to run a noble race, and to refuse to give in to despair.

We pray in Your strong 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, today, at 3 o'clock, we will begin consideration of the Transportation, Treasury, and HUD

appropriations bill. We expect amendments to be offered during today's session and, as I announced prior to the recess, the first vote will occur at 5:30. We expect that vote to be in relation to an amendment to the Transportation-Treasury bill, and we will coordinate with the two managers once we begin debate on the bill itself.

We are now in the final weeks of the first session. Members should expect busy weeks with rollcall votes possible each day of the week, including Fridays. I say including on Fridays not as a threat but as a reality of the large amount of work remaining that we have to do and the time left for completing our business.

I do thank all Senators in advance for their patience and cooperation as we try to wrap up our business next month.

### SENATE AGENDA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I welcome back our colleagues from the Columbus Day recess. As we open our session, I hope everyone—I am sure they did—had a productive and rejuvenating week with their constituents and their families and their friends. We have a very busy 5-week session ahead of us. There is a lot of work to do.

First up is going to be spending reconciliation. This week our committees are taking up the hard work of thoughtfully considering spending cuts to ensure fiscal discipline, particularly in light of our responsibilities in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It is not an easy job. It is not going to be an easy job over the next several days and weeks. I do want to thank our committees and their chairmen and ranking members for their determination and focus.

On appropriations, we have made steady progress. We have made good progress in the last several weeks. I anticipate we will be able to finish the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, and

DC appropriations bill this week, which means once we are successful with that—and we will be—we will have only one bill remaining. I thank, particularly, Chairman THAD COCHRAN for his tremendous leadership in this appropriations process.

The appropriations process is one of our primary responsibilities. It funds the basic functions of our Government. And we are committed to doing so in a way that is disciplined and is fiscally responsible.

This is equally true as we continue to meet the challenges of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. In the wake of these twin disasters, we focused on providing the targeted relief, the immediate relief, and the effective tax incentives that we know will work to help the gulf coast recover and rebuild.

As this process moves forward, we are going to face a lot of tough decisions, a lot of difficult decisions. But with each of these decisions does come an opportunity, an opportunity to encourage growth, to lower costs, to create jobs, and to strengthen the economy as the gulf recovers and rebuilds stronger and, indeed, more prosperous than ever.

Throughout, we need to keep a sharp eye on the bottom line, and we need to set clear priorities. Some have called for higher taxes to cover the short-term expense. I disagree. America's families are already bearing the burden of higher taxes in higher gasoline prices and heating bills as a result of the storms. We cannot and should not burden the American people with even greater Government-imposed expenses.

We need to stick to a rigorous program of fiscal discipline and strong progrowth and deliver meaningful solutions that are responsible and effective, that we know will work.

Before the Columbus Day recess, I asked our committee chairmen to keep working on the spending controls we agreed to earlier this year and to look for ways to find additional savings.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S11339