



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007

No. 94

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, Your promises are sure. Bless our lawmakers in all their undertakings. In their friendships, keep them faithful and true. In their emotions, keep them calm and serene. Free them from anxiety and care. In their material things, give them contentment and generosity. In their spiritual lives, deliver them from doubts and distrust. In their work, give them guidance and success. And if misfortune comes, use the trials to bring them closer to each other and to You. Let nothing shake their certainty that You alone are sovereign over their lives.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 60 minutes. The Republicans will control the first half, the Democrats the second half. Following this period of morning business, the Senate will resume postcloture debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6, the Energy bill.

We have consent to move to the bill itself after the caucuses end at 2:15 today. The motion to proceed will be agreed to, and the Senate will begin consideration of the energy legislation. Senators BINGAMAN, DOMENICI, we understand BOXER and INHOFE and INOUE, or his designee, and STEVENS, will come and talk about this bill. Hopefully, they will do it this morning to lay the groundwork for this very important piece of legislation.

As with the competitiveness bill, this is a bipartisan bill. I remind everyone, matters that the Energy Committee reports out of their committee on a bipartisan basis are part of this bill. The same applied to Commerce; the same applied to the Environment and Public Works Committee.

Those matters the chairmen wanted out of those committees that were not bipartisan are not part of this bill. This is truly a bipartisan bill. There will be amendments offered to weaken the bill, to strengthen the bill—of course, the

understanding of those words is in the eyes of the beholder.

I hope this will be a good, strong debate. I hope people will offer amendments. We have a limited amount of time to complete a lot of work. If there are long delays, people not offering amendments, I know the managers will be saying we have to end this some way, and the "some way" that we are always forced to look at is whether we want to have a bipartisan cloture vote on ending debate.

Let's have people who want to offer amendments do it as quickly as possible. I have asked the managers of the bill, rather than wait around for people who say: I don't know if I want a vote on this, we need more time—after there has been a reasonable amount of time discussing one of these amendments, the managers should move to table the amendment. If it is not tabled, nothing is lost. We need to move along and get this legislation completed as quickly as possible.

Gas prices are going down. They have dropped a few cents the last week or two, which is good. The cost of oil coming into this country has gone up. It is now at \$67 and people are saying it is going up higher, which will mean there will be an increase at the gas pumps a month or so after the cost of oil importation increases.

Remember, we have an obligation with this legislation. This legislation, which some people say is not strong enough, if it passes, will cut the amount of oil we use per day in this country by 4 million barrels. Think about that, 4 million barrels a day. This is a step in the right direction. I hope we can do this.

The setting for this is, among other things, we use 21 million barrels of oil every day. We import 65 percent of that. As I said yesterday in illustration of how much this is, it is a ditch 150 feet deep and 11 miles long filled with oil. That is how much we use every day.

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



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