



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2007

No. 107

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2007, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2007

The Senate met at 9:45, a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the giver of true freedom, as Independence Day draws near, awaken in us a new appreciation for our Nation, that we apply ourselves to keeping alive a real sense of liberty. Thank You for our Nation's Founders, their ideals, their principles, and their sacrifices. Thank You for the long procession of statesmen and patriots who have guarded our rights and healed our land.

Give our lawmakers a vision so pure that they will not endeavor simply to build on the sands of time but on the sure foundation of honor and right. Look with favor upon the leaders of our executive, judicial, and legislative branches, imbue them with the spirit of wisdom, goodness, and truth. So rule in their hearts and bless their endeavors that law and order, justice and peace may prevail everywhere.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 29, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN 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, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no votes today. The next votes are expected to occur Monday, around 5:30; that is July 9.

As I said yesterday, the Senate will vote on the remaining four judicial nominations that are on the Executive Calendar. Also, on Monday, July 9, the Senate will begin consideration of the Defense Department authorization bill,

an extremely important bill for all of our military servicemembers in Iraq, Afghanistan, North Korea, and all over the world.

So when the Senate leaves today for the Fourth of July recess and returns on July 9, Members should expect a very busy legislative work period during the month of July.

### DELAY TACTICS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have tried and tried and tried to get the Republicans to allow us to go to conference on ethics, on lobbying reform and also on the 9/11 Commission recommendations. They have prohibited us from doing that.

In the Senate, there are procedural blocks that can be placed on measures, and they have done that. They have done it for reasons that are fleeting in importance. We were ready to do ethics and lobbying reform, and someone stepped in and said: Well, I don't like the earmark provision, I want them to be handled some other way—a diversion, a dilatory tactic to stop this Congress from doing what it needs to do regarding lobbying and ethics reform.

Republicans are trying to stop reform. We have lived in a culture of corruption during Republican leadership. For the first time in 131 years, someone working in the White House is indicted, the man is now in prison, Scooter Libby. Safavian, head of Government contracting for the President, appointed by the President, handles billions of dollars for the Government contracting, he was led away from his office in handcuffs; he is now in prison.

The majority leader in the House of Representatives was convicted three

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



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times within 1 year of ethics violations. He was indicted in the State of Texas. He resigned.

Another Member of Congress is serving jail time for corruption. Abramoff, whose tentacles seem to go throughout this town, is in prison.

Trips to Scotland to play golf, lavish gifts by lobbyists, parties by lobbyists, free travel on airplanes, the legislation that passed the Senate eliminates all that. I have only given a brief capsule of the corruption in this town under Republican leadership. I have only given a brief capsule of what they have done to prevent our going to conference.

I want all of the Republicans to know, I am not going to ask again for unanimous consent to go to conference. When they get ready to go to conference, they can come to us.

But everyone should understand that prior to the August recess, we are going to complete ethics and lobbying reform. We are going to do it if we have to spend nights, weekends, take days out of our August recess. Everyone has had fair warning.

It takes a lot of time to overcome the hurdles they have placed in front of us, but we are going to do that. It will eat up valuable Senate time, but we are going to do it. We are going to complete lobbying and ethics reform. That was the first bill we placed on the agenda, ethics and lobbying reform, to try to have the American people feel better about their Congress and what we do.

I can still remember 9/11. I was in S-219. I was the first one in that room that morning. It was a Tuesday morning. It is when Senator Daschle held his leadership meeting. Senator Breaux came in and said: Flip on the TV, something is happening in New York. We could see one of the buildings burning.

Without elaborating in great detail, the leadership meeting started, someone came and got Senator Daschle. There was an evacuation of this building that took place. There was a plane heading toward the Capitol.

It would take someone living in New York to understand the horror of that day, I believe. But it was a horrible day. There was a 9/11 Commission appointed after great turmoil and consternation. The President fought that for a number of months. Finally, it was done, a bipartisan commission. They came back with recommendations. It has been almost 3 years and those have not been implemented.

We passed in the Senate, as one of our top priorities, implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. Remember, that same commission graded the Bush administration on how they were implementing those recommendations: Ds and Fs.

With the legislation we passed, all As. Once again, the Republicans have stood in our way procedurally and will not let us go to conference. Yesterday someone came in and said: Well, I do

not like what happens postaudit; we need to make sure that following the spending of those moneys the audit trail is appropriate.

So do I. So does every member of the Senate. We want this money spent wisely and properly. This is a diversionary, delaying tactic to stop us from doing this.

The President did not want the 9/11 Commission appointed in the first place. He wouldn't implement the recommendations. He is trying to stop the Congress from forcing him to sign a bill.

I will say the same thing on the 9/11 Commission recommendations that I said on ethics and lobbying reform. I am no longer going to come and beg the Republicans to do what is good for the country. It is up to them. When they get ready to do the 9/11 Commission recommendations, come to us and we will appoint conferees immediately and complete the conference within a matter of a couple of days.

Like ethics and lobbying reform, we are going to complete this before the August recess. Now, is that going to shorten the August recess? It is up to the Republicans. But we are going to complete this legislation. It is not right that two of the most important issues facing this country, ethics and lobbying reform—getting rid of the culture of corruption—and implementing the 9/11 Commission recommendations should not go into effect.

The 9/11 Commission recommendations, they are not just for the State of New York, they are for our country, to protect people in Las Vegas and Reno, to protect Hoover Dam, where millions of people cross that bridge every year, to make sure there is not some terrorist act, throwing something over that dam, disrupting power that is generated that goes, most of it, to California, or the water sources, most of which goes to California.

I think this is a very dangerous game the Republicans are playing, delaying the implementation of ethics and lobbying reform and the implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The senior Senator from New York is recognized.

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#### POLICY OF OBSTRUCTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to salute our majority leader, Senator

REID, for what he said. The bottom line is, these are two very important pieces of legislation.

The other side cannot come up with many substantive objections, none, as we have heard yesterday when they moved to block it. But they have had a policy of obstruct, obstruct, obstruct. Why, you might ask? How does it help a political party? How does it help a Senator to obstruct things that are motherhood and apple pie such as ethics and lobbying reform, the 9/11 Commission, things desperately needed, first by this town and second by the whole Nation and of course my State.

The answer is very simple. When you are divided, as the other side is on about every issue; when you can't lead, as yesterday's immigration bill showed, the President's No. 1 domestic priority—fewer than a quarter of the Senators on that side voted for it—there is only one answer that can unify; that is, obstruct.

There is one problem with that—there are two. The main problem is: It is wrong for America. It is wrong for America. The second is, it does not work politically. That is why we are seeing the fact that so many on the other side are so worried.

So I wish to salute our majority leader. I will—and I know all the Members on our side will—stand with him side by side. If we have to meet at 2 in the morning, if we have to go into the August recess to get these things done, we will.

The Senate gives the minority the power to lay down the gauntlet of cloture and filibuster. You cannot move unless you get 60 votes. Of course, we do not have them. But we are not powerless. The ability to push through those filibusters—even if it means some inconvenience for the Senators—is our right and I salute our majority leader for telling the other side, and more importantly the American people, we will use that right to move the Nation forward.

So I wish to thank our majority leader for doing this. It is the right thing to do. Everyone is put on notice. A little inconvenience for the Senators to make our country safe, to clean up the unethical swamp in Washington, it sure is worth it. I think the majority leader is absolutely correct. I hope the other side will not continue to obstruct. But if they do, we will get these things done because our country and the American people demand no less.

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#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would like to make one other point in morning business and talk about, very briefly, on the events of the day yesterday. Yesterday was a very sad day for America, in two instances, when an ideological extreme group set back our country on immigration.

On immigration, we had lots of prattling, lots of scare tactics. As a result, the immigration bill is paralyzed. That