



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2007

No. 124

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.

Almighty God, the true light of life, whose power no earthly force can challenge and whose reign no alien god can shake, open our hearts to what You have done for us, what You are doing even now, and what You promise for us in the future. May the gifts of each sunrise and sunset remind us of Your goodness and make us more determined to please You with our words and deeds.

Draw near to our lawmakers as they work. Let the consciousness of Your presence fill their minds with peace. Use them today to defend those who are helpless and have lost all hope. Quicken their memories to recall the many times You have intervened to keep our Nation safe. Let the warmth of Your divine solace scatter the shadows of perplexity and doubt, as You encircle them with the wonder of Your love.

We pray in Your great 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 31, 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, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the time divided equally between the majority and the minority. The minority will control the first half of the time and the majority will control the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 976, and I expect the majority manager, Senator BAUCUS, to call up his amendment at the desk, which will be the text of the SCHIP legislation reported overwhelmingly by the Senate Finance Committee last week.

Today the Senate will recess at 12:30 for its respective policy work periods.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 849

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader, may at any time proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 127, S. 849, the Openness Promotes Effectiveness of Our National Government Act of 2007, sponsored by Sen-

ators LEAHY and CORNYN, and that the bill be considered under the following limitations: that there be a time limit of 2 hours of general debate on the bill, with the time equally divided and controlled between the chair and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee or their designees; that the only amendment in order be a Leahy-Cornyn technical amendment, which is at the desk; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, with the above occurring without further intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will object, I believe it will be possible, with the sponsors of the bill, to reach an agreement that will obviate the necessity for a great deal of floor time or amendments on the floor. I have met with the sponsors of the bill and have presented ideas about ameliorating some of the deficiencies the Department of Justice brought out about the legislation. Last week, I had a long conversation with Senator CORNYN, who is here. I believe if we can continue those discussions, in a very brief period of time—perhaps by the end of this week—it would not be necessary to devote a great deal of time to the consideration of the bill. Because of that, at this time, I will object to that particular procedure, but I hope we can report back to the majority leader that we have reached an agreement on the bill in the near future.

Mr. REID. I would be satisfied if the junior Senator from Arizona could work on this. I hope there can be an agreement reached that we can take this bill up maybe when we get back, with a limited amount of time and amendments. It is very popular legislation—the Freedom of Information Act—which our friends in the press

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



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