



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

No. 148

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today the opening prayer will be offered by Reverend Dr. Charles R. Smith, pastor of the Madison Baptist Church in Madison, GA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, the One who created us in Your image and the One who values every person as uniquely as our fingerprints, we invoke Your guidance with the realization that we are nothing without You. Guide those in this Chamber to recognize that honorable governance seeks the best for all; that today's actions bear tomorrow's fruit; that integrity should be championed over winning. Offer them wisdom to weigh their decisions not propagating partisan policy but based on fair legislation for everyone. Grant them fortitude to exemplify selfless service even to those individuals on the other side of the aisle, recognizing that what they do has a ripple effect, much like tossing a pebble into a pond.

We thank You that You cherish every person as an individual. We thank You that You hear our prayer. 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The Senator from Georgia.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the presence of our guest Chaplain today, Charles Smith, and his lovely wife Jennifer and his family members who have traveled from Madison, GA, and around Georgia to be here today as he serves our country as our guest Chaplain for today.

Charles has a doctor of ministry degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife is a family and marriage counselor and an ordained minister. His niece Megan serves us in the Republican cloakroom and does so on a daily basis with great joy for all of us.

So we want to welcome Charles Smith, his family, and thank him so much for his ministry today, his witness today, but also thank him for all the leadership he has given to Megan, who does such a great job for us.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, ask most Americans to name two of the most basic duties of a Senator, and you are likely to hear some combination of the following: No. 1, protect the country. That means working with us to pass the National Defense Authorization Act. No. 2, fund the government. That means working with us to pass the 12 appropriations bills that fund it.

But some of our Democratic colleagues don't seem all that interested in these things. It is not just that their words tell us this story, their actions do as well. The Democratic leader has used the phrase "waste of time" to

refer to a bill that protects our country. Passing that bill usually inspires bipartisan cooperation, but this year it required overcoming senseless resistance from the other side before we finally witnessed that cooperation yesterday with the bill's passage.

Democratic Senators have used phrases such as "kind of a waste of time," and "a huge waste of time," to refer to the bills that fund our government.

Passing these bills used to be routine, and the new majority has worked hard to ensure that it does again after 6 years of inaction. That is why we passed the budget. That is why we passed the 12 appropriations bills through committee in a bipartisan way. But now Democrats have decided as part of some arbitrary political strategy to indiscriminately filibuster every last funding bill.

Now Democrats may no longer be interested in passing these bipartisan bills, but it doesn't mean they aren't interested in taking credit for the same legislation they are now blocking. Take the bill that funds veterans. Democrats voted with us to support it in committee, then they issued press releases bragging about its contents, and then they filibustered it. Take the bill that funds defense. Democrats voted with us to support it in committee, then they issued press releases bragging about its content, and then they filibustered it, repeatedly.

Today we will consider the bill that funds America's energy security and its water infrastructure. Democrats voted with us to support this bill in committee, too. In fact, over 70 percent of the Democrats in committee supported the bill that is before us today. Democrats issued press releases with nice things to say about the bill's contents. One lauded the bill for funding important energy efficiency advances in our military and for low-income families. Another reminded us the bill provides "robust funding" for vital programs that deserve to be funded. Today

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



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