this invitation went out over 6 months ago, a long time ago.

So I made the mistake of walking in a little bit late this Sunday evening for 5 o'clock mass. As I walked in the door, I knew I made a mistake. It was like being back in school. Father Trainor was up in the pulpit and I missed part of his sermon. He looked down to the congregation and he said: By the way, one other thing I want to tell you all. I want to tell you that I have had the great honor of being invited to open a session of the U.S. Senate this week. It came from the late Joe Biden—who just walked in the door. And then he proceeded to tell a story I hope he won’t mind me telling.

He was standing in front of the entire congregation last Sunday—and by the way, this congregation attracts most of its people not from the parish. They are young professionals who come from all over the city to come into that 5 o'clock mass at night because of Father Trainor. It is always packed. It is literally standing room only. The few of us who are occasionally late, we stand a lot.

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Most of you do not know that there is a police station downstairs underneath this building. He took me down. By the time I got down there, he realized I was just a college student in total awe of this place.

I was elected to the Senate 10 years later. The first day I walked into the Senate Chamber, and a police officer tapped me on the shoulder. He said: Do you remember me, Senator?

I told him a story. The first time I walked into the Capitol, and he said: I arrested you 10 years ago when you came in.

We both had inauspicious starts in the Senate. I say to you, Father, your prayer was right on target, and the finish was much stronger than the finish I have had. I thank you for being here.

I conclude by saying it is genuinely an honor for the State of Delaware to have a Senate host Chaplain today. Reverend Ogilvie, I thank you. You are a cogunaduate gentleman, and I appreciate the hospitality you offered to Father and always to all of us in the Senate.

I note for the RECORD and say to my colleague from Delaware, Senator Carper, I only know of a total of three other Delawareans since I have been here who have ever been guest Chaplains. Senator Carper knows them all:

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I said: No, I don’t.

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Rabbi Kenneth S. Cohen from Congregation Beth Shalom was a guest Chaplain in 1982, and Father Robert Balducelli from St. Anthony’s Parish. We need a little Irish levity brought to this. Now we have it all covered in my State. I thank you again, Father Trainor. I know the majority leader wishes to speak. After he does, I want to ask permission to yield to my colleague from Delaware for brief comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER, the majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have enjoyed the welcome speech from the senator from Delaware and I look forward to hearing from the other Senator from Delaware.

Welcome, Father Trainor. We all welcome you. Thank you for being here.

Mr. President, I get Lloyd Ogilvie, mean a great deal, obviously, to the Senators from Delaware, but also to the spirit of our country. We thank you for being here this morning and being our guest Chaplain.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I enter into the RECORD the majority committee assignments for the 107th Congress. I thank all Members for their cooperation during this organization effort. I send to the desk the majority committee assignments. I understand Senator Daschle will be presenting his committee assignments later.

The committee assignments are as follows:

REPUBLICAN “A” COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 107TH CONGRESS
(Note: All committees have an equal number of Republicans and Democrats)

AGRICULTURE


APPROPRIATIONS

Senators Stevens, Cochran, Domenici, Specter, Bond, McConnell, Burns, Shelby, Gregg, Bennett, Campbell, Craig, K. Hutchinson, and DeWine.

ARMED SERVICES


BANKING

Senators Gramm, Shelby, Bennett, Allard, Enzi, Hagel, Santorum, Bunning, Crapo, and Ensign.

COMMERCE

Senators McCain, Stevens, Burns, Lott, K. Hutchison, Snowe, Brownback, G. Smith, Fitzgerald, Ensign, and Allen.

ENERGY

Senators Murkowski, Domenici, Nickles, Craig, Campbell, Thomas, Shelby, Burns, Kyl, Hagel, and G. Smith.

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Senators B. Smith, Warner, Inhofe, Bond, Voinovich, Crapo, Chafee, Specter, and Campbell.

FINANCE

Senators Grassley, Hatch, Murkowski, Nickles, Gramm, Lott, Jeffords, Thompson, Snowe, and Kyl.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Senators Helms, Lugar, Hagel, G. Smith, Thomas, Frist, Chafee, Allen, and Brownback.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senators Thompson, Stevens, Collins, Voinovich, Domenici, Cochran, Gregg, and Bennett.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS


JUDICIARY

Senators Hatch, Thurmond, Grassley, Specter, Kyl, DeWine, Sessions, Brownback, and McConnell.

REPUBLICAN “B” COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 107TH CONGRESS

Agriculture

Senators Craig, Jeffords, Burns, Shelby, Santorum, Collins, Enzi, T. Hutchinson, Fitzgerald, and Ensign.

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That one.

I ask all Senators for their assistance. Senator REID from Nevada is here. I know he has been working on helping move these along, especially Governor Whitman to be Administrator of EPA. I thank Senators on both sides of the aisle for that cooperation.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 21 be discharged from the Committee on Finance and be referred to the Committees on Budget and Governmental Affairs, per the order of August 4, 1977.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I certainly support the leader’s efforts to have us work a full workweek in the Senate Chamber. I do say we can really develop some bad habits. I know our leader has already been requested to see if we can get off on Wednesday nights. We really have to get started having some votes on more than 3 days a week.

I also say to the leader that we worked hard on this side, as I have indicated. There is a spirit of bipartisan-ship. I think that was helped yesterday with the meeting at the White House.

We really want to move these along, and the record should reflect, except for one nomination, Tuesday afternoon they will all have been completed. We hope in the foreseeable future we will be able to work the final one, debate it, resolve it. Hopefully, that can be done expeditiously.

We are willing to do the best we can. The record should reflect, with the remaining nominations, there are tons of questions. I know the committees are trying to work their way through that so we can have those answers so the debate can take place expeditiously.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may respond to Senator REID’s comments, with regard to the questions that need to be answered by the designee to be Attorney General, former Senator Ashcroft, this very morning we worked to encourage that those questions be answered as quickly as possible and gotten to the committee. Hopefully, that will be done today, and I understand Senator DASCHLE, if that can be done, is going to work with us to see if we can move that nomination in a reasonable time next week. I appreciate that very much.

Senator Reid touched on our meeting with the President yesterday morning. It was a bipartisan, bicameral meeting. I thought it was a very good meeting. Again, the President was reaching out to the Congress and to the American people through their leaders. That was the sixth meeting he has had with congressional leaders in only 3 days as President, or workweek as President. He did have Sunday.

It has been Republicans, Democrats, leaders on education, the elected leaders, but the thing I liked about it, it