

Last Monday, on the morning after the killings of the two British soldiers at a military base, hundreds of people gathered in the nearby town of Antrim for a prayer service at the police cordon where the shootings took place.

The worshipers included members of the local Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, and Methodist Churches—all praying together.

A Catholic priest told a reporter his parishioners were determined to show their outrage over the murders, but they wanted to do so collectively with their neighbors from other churches.

The priest told a reporter:

In the past, if something like this happened, people would withdraw into their own [separate] community. This time, everybody was united because it was an attack on everybody—on the peace we all own.

Last Wednesday, thousands more people attended dignified, silent “peace rallies” in Belfast, Derry, and other towns in Northern Ireland. Young and old, men and women, Protestants and Catholics stood shoulder to shoulder in the cold to express their horror at these killings and their resolve to maintain the Good Friday peace.

Signs carried by many of the more than 2,000 people who gathered at Belfast City Hall seemed to express their collective resolve. The signs read simply: “No going back.”

Many of us remember how difficult the Northern Ireland peace negotiations were, how often they seemed on the verge of collapse. But their collective determination, and the wise leadership of George Mitchell, led them to an agreement, led them to use diplomats and politicians but also the faith and courage of ordinary people to bring organizations and institutions that had been at war for decades together in peace.

Last weekend, in Chicago, we had a great St. Patrick’s Day celebration. We dyed the Chicago River green, drank a lot of beer, marched in parades. Everybody wore their green and had a glorious time.

I attended a breakfast honoring a great organization. The Irish American Partnership is working to create a more hopeful future for the children of Ireland—both north and south. They support educational and other efforts to replace old divisions with understanding and cooperation.

On this St. Patrick’s Day, we want the people of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and Great Britain to know America shares their grief and outrage over these killings. We also share their resolve never to go back.

Just as it was in America’s national interest to help broker the Good Friday peace agreement, it is in our interest now to help the people of Northern Ireland reclaim that peace.

Now, before I yield the floor, I cannot let St. Patrick’s Day pass without saying a word about a great man whose family has become synonymous with Irish America, with peace in Northern Ireland, and with so many other noble causes.

Senator TED KENNEDY—KNOWN AS SIR EDWARD by those of us who are honored to call him a colleague—is not here on the Senate floor today. But we see his pride in his Irish heritage in the shamrock sugar cookies and green punch he had delivered to the Democratic cloakroom today, as he has done on every St. Patrick’s Day for decades.

More importantly, we feel TED KENNEDY’s influence in this Senate’s efforts to promote justice and opportunity in our own Nation—to provide more Americans with jobs, health care, and education, so they can make a good life for themselves and their families.

On this St. Patrick’s Day, I know I speak for all my colleagues in the Senate in wishing Senator KENNEDY slainte.

To your health, TED. We look forward to seeing you back soon.

A few months ago, Senator KENNEDY’s wife Vicki, at the Democratic Convention in Denver, handed me this little blue plastic bracelet. It has a word on it they made up for the occasion, so all of us who stand by TED and think of him every day would carry this little reminder with a bracelet that says one word: Tedstrong.

Well, we are strong in our love for this great Senator. He has been strong in his love for this great country. It is a good thing to remember him on one of his happiest days, St. Patrick’s Day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, before my colleague leaves the floor, I wonder if he might answer a question, and that is whether some of us on this side of the aisle could also celebrate our colleague, TED’s, appreciation for St. Paddy’s Day, if there are any more of those cookies and punch left in the Democratic cloakroom.

Mr. DURBIN. I am going to check. If there are, we will bring some across because I know TED would do that himself.

Mr. KYL. I thank my colleague.

NOMINATION OF DAN ROONEY TO BE AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I want to speak about a very happy and positive topic, something that is close to my heart but I think also close to the heart of a lot of Americans. Today, we have the double benefit of it being not only St. Patrick’s day, but in my case, as a Pennsylvanian and one of Irish descent, I had the great news announced today by the President of the United States that Dan Rooney—from the great Rooney family of Pittsburgh, owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers and a great friend of the people of Ireland, who has been active in the peace process, as has his family for a generation or more with their time, their effort, their money, and their wisdom—has been nominated to be Ambassador to Ireland. He is a Pittsburgher and a Pennsylvanian, and we are so very

proud today to be able to report that for those who haven’t yet heard the news. I will work, as a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, to get him confirmed because we should confirm him.

Dan Rooney is well known as the owner of the Steelers, the Super Bowl champs several times over in the last generation, and that is wonderful that he is, but he is a son of Pittsburgh, a very humble man, a very decent, kind, caring, and compassionate man, someone who has the kind of integrity and the kind of commitment to service you would want in an ambassador to any country but especially one such as Ireland. Pennsylvania has a pretty significant percentage of its population that traces its ancestry to that small island, and across the ages we have been proud of that connection, that affinity we have for the people of Ireland. In this case, if all goes as it should with the confirmation—and I am sure it will—we will have a son of Pittsburgh, a son of Pennsylvania, a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serving as Ambassador to Ireland.

Dan is someone who not only has the character and integrity and commitment to his country, and his concern about the Irish people, but he is also someone who has broad experience in running a major organization and motivating people to meet goals. There is so much that our country can do together with the people of Ireland. That country will see, if it does not already know, what we have always seen in the character and the decency and the strength and experience of Dan Rooney. So we are very proud today that President Obama made that announcement, especially for someone who has the kind of character and commitment to public service that Dan Rooney has.

One final note about the celebration today of St. Patrick’s Day. There are a lot of reasons to celebrate, even in the context of some of the recent violence in Ireland. There are more reasons than not to celebrate the enduring peace of Ireland, even in the midst of that setback, even in the midst of that violence. We have a lot to be thankful for, those of us who care about that kind of peace—one of the longest conflicts in the history of the world brought to resolution back in the 1990s. George Mitchell and the Clinton administration worked very hard on this, and I know the Obama administration will be equally committed to making sure that peace endures.

As we are thinking today about Ireland and thinking about St. Patrick’s Day and thinking about the bond between our two countries—and earlier today I heard Senator DURBIN speak of the senior Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, for a whole variety of reasons—I think of TED KENNEDY as someone who spent a lot of his time in the Senate working on peace issues the world over but in particular working on the peace process in Northern Ireland. Over his lifetime of service in the

Senate, he is someone who has given meaning to the values we cherish on a day like today—values of service, the value of peace over war, the value of integrity, and the value of trying to love one another the best we can.

TED KENNEDY has a long connection not just with the peace process and not just with the people of Ireland and his heritage, but his family has had a long connection with my home State of Pennsylvania—and not just on St. Patrick's Day but on a lot of other days. In fact, one of the reasons I highlighted Senator KENNEDY and am thinking of him tonight is because of all the work he has done on health care, on civil rights, on education, as well as issues as important as the peace process in Ireland.

I am also thinking of him tonight because of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, which has had many storied speakers, but one of the greatest speeches given at that dinner—really in the history of the American Irish—was given by then-Senator Robert Frances Kennedy of New York in 1964. So we are thinking tonight of the inspiration Senator Robert Kennedy provided to the American people, to the people of the State he served, New York, and to people across the country in his Presidential campaign in 1968 before his tragic assassination.

In a special way, I am thinking of the speech he gave not long after—literally just a few months after his brother, President Kennedy, was killed. I had the occasion a little more than a year ago to give an audio recording of that to Senator TED KENNEDY. I know he had heard of the speech and maybe even heard the actual recording, but I wanted to make sure he had a CD of that speech.

So we are thinking of him tonight and thinking of his family and the great sacrifice the Kennedy family has made for the American people; one as President, two in the Senate, and one of them in the Senate who served as Attorney General. That is just a highlight of the kind of service they have provided.

So on this St. Patrick's Day, we cherish the memory of so many things that are Irish, but we are also whispering a silent prayer for our country, whispering a prayer for the people of Ireland and for those who made this peace possible, people such as TED KENNEDY and George Mitchell, and others who worked so hard.

In this very special way today, I am grateful for the chance to be able to stand on the floor of the Senate and say that a friend of mine, a friend of Pennsylvania, and a proud son of Pittsburgh has been nominated by President Obama to be Ambassador to Ireland. That friend is Dan Rooney.

So congratulations, Dan. We are thinking of you and your family tonight as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rules XXVI requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. On March 16, 2009, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, today I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the rules of procedure of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

(1) SUBCOMMITTEE RULES.—The Subcommittee shall be governed, where applicable, by the rules of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(2) QUORUMS.

(A) TRANSACTION OF ROUTINE BUSINESS.—One-third of the membership of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business, provided that one Member of the Minority is present. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "routine business" includes the convening of a meeting and the consideration of any business of the Subcommittee other than reporting to the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs any matters or recommendations. Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the consideration or reporting of legislation.

(B) TAKING TESTIMONY.—One Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking sworn or unsworn testimony.

(C) PROXIES PROHIBITED IN ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM.—Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

(3) SUBCOMMITTEE SUBPOENAS.—The Chairman of the Subcommittee, with the approval of the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials at a hearing, provided that the Chairman may subpoena attendance or production without the approval of the Ranking Minority Member where the Chairman or a staff officer designated by him/her has not received notification from the Ranking Minority Member or a staff officer designated by him/her of disapproval of the subpoena within 72 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, of being notified of the subpoena. If a subpoena is disapproved by the Ranking Minority Member as provided herein, the subpoena may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Subcommittee.

Immediately upon authorization of the issuance of a subpoena under these rules, a written notice of intent to issue the subpoena shall be provided to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, or staff officers designated by them, by the Subcommittee Chairman or a staff officer designated by him/her, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 48 hours,

excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs waive the 48-hour waiting period or unless the Subcommittee Chairman certifies in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee that, in his or her opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

When the Subcommittee or its Chairman authorizes subpoenas, subpoenas may be issued upon the signature of the Chairman or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by the Chairman.

MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, with the coming parliamentary elections scheduled for April 5, Moldova is once again at a crucial juncture in its domestic political development.

In recent years, Moldova's cooperation with the United States has deepened, with steady progress through the initial stages of the Millennium Challenge Threshold Program, which promises to bring significant material assistance to Moldova in the near future. Additionally, Moldova has advanced in its quest for greater European integration. To continue to build upon and consolidate these positive developments, it is crucial that the current campaign and voting on April 5 be conducted in a manner consistent with Moldova's commitment to meeting OSCE election standards.

Since achieving independence in 1991, Moldova has had a generally positive record in conducting and respecting the results of free elections. However, there have been shortcomings and it is essential that Moldova avoid repeating practices that have drawn criticism in previous contests.

Specifically, national and local authorities must make every effort to ensure a level and transparent playing field for all candidates during the campaign and avoid the use of administrative resources to hamper political rivals. It is also important that the authorities make efforts to ensure access to the media for all candidates and representatives of political parties. Finally, law enforcement bodies must safeguard the public's basic right to freely and publicly assemble to express their views in a peaceable manner.

As Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I would underscore the importance that all involved in Moldova's upcoming parliamentary elections ensure compliance with international norms. This is crucial, not only for the future of democratic reform in Moldova, but also for the country's further economic development and progress along its chosen path of European integration.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with