

There can be no greater challenge to us today than improving our education system throughout the country. It struck me as I read the editorial that this calls the attention of all of us to the fact that no matter what kind of programs we have, how much money we spend, what kind of national goals we adopt and try to implement, if we do not have good, qualified, conscientious, and committed teachers in the classrooms of the schools of America, we are not going to have a good education system. They are the cornerstone of our education system in America.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the New York Times editorial of Saturday to which I refer be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times, Jan. 7, 1995]

A NATIONAL REWARD FOR GOOD TEACHERS

Ever since the mid-1980's, when a series of landmark studies called for drastic changes in the nation's schools, American educators have been seeking ways to raise teaching standards. That effort bore its first fruit this week when 81 gifted teachers were awarded national teaching certification at a ceremony in Washington.

The ceremony may turn out to be a pivotal moment in the history of American education. Many educators hope that the 81 recipients will be the first small vanguard of a new generation of highly qualified teachers who, in turn, will nourish better schools and better students.

Until Thursday, no teacher possessed a national certificate. Public school teachers are certified by states and localities. One hope is that recipients will be able to move from state to state without facing recertification. Another is that states and localities will reward certificate-holders with higher pay, thus offering an incentive to other teachers.

But the real value of the certificate may have been identified by Arthur Levine, the president of Teachers College at Columbia University. These first awards, he said, "provide some sense that around the country there is some agreement on what makes for a good teacher."

The certificates grew out of a report called "A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century," which led to the creation of a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in 1987. The idea was to raise standards for teachers and elevate their status, treating them more like doctors and other professionals.

The board then set about creating a licensing system. The heart of the system is an exhaustive series of tests aimed at finding out how teachers teach and evaluating their effectiveness.

A group of 539 volunteers has now completed tests for English-language specialists and generalists who teach early adolescents. The 81 winners came from the generally/early adolescent category, and more are scheduled to follow among the English teachers.

The volunteers submitted portfolios of their work—videotapes of classroom techniques, examples of their students' work, references from colleagues and written self-assessments. They were also tested on subject matter and teaching techniques. Participants found that the rigorous assessment process was itself an exercise in professional growth.

Preparing for the test costs money. At least eight states have already taken action

to support or reward teachers who seek national board certification. Others should follow suit. If stronger teaching is the most important element in improving schools—and most educators believe it is—then the certification process is certain to give a huge boost to the effort to give American schoolchildren a better deal than they now receive.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to exceed 90 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 10 minutes each.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] is recognized.

A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, it is with a great deal of pride and humility that I rise today as Wyoming's newest Senator. It is a great honor, of course, to be here. I take the floor to speak about a matter which is of great concern to me and all of us, and that is the future of this country. We have a historic opportunity to make real changes in the way the Federal Government operates and in how the American people perceive their Government. It seems to me that we either move boldly forward with the changes demanded by the electorate last November 8, or we squander the only real, true chance of restoring the American people's confidence in their Government.

The true test of government, it seems to me, is how responsive it is to the will of the voters. Mr. President, as I traveled Wyoming these last few months and talked to the folks from Cheyenne to Cody, I heard a recurring theme from my constituents. Over and over, they told me to get Government out of their lives, to restore fiscal responsibility to Washington, and above all else, to put an end to business as usual.

Judging by the results of the last election, it was a common message throughout the country. There should be no doubt about the message sent to Washington last November, and that was we need less government, less expensive government. People are tired of the status quo, and they want changes in how Government operates.

Unfortunately, as we all know, government in modern times has become increasingly resistant to change. As I read history, it is not unusual for voters to call for change. They did so about every generation in the 1800's up into the 1900's, until about 1930 when the Federal Government began to get much larger. As it has become a more and more pervasive part of our lives, to where it is now, with the size of the Federal Government plus the outside bureaucracies that have been built up

through the decades, it becomes more and more difficult to change.

These constituencies and the Government stubbornly fight to protect their piece of the Federal funding pie. Federal programs do not die; they do not even fade away. They grow and grow.

As the Federal Government has grown, the American people have grown increasingly disenfranchised. Not only do Americans distrust their Government, but many do not even bother to vote because they do not believe their vote can help effect change. I suppose that is because in past elections, change has not come about and the direction the country has remained much the same. We cannot repeat that mistake.

The first lesson we must learn is that we cannot continue to do the same things, to follow the same procedures, and expect different results. If we want to change the direction this country is moving, then we have to make procedural changes in the Government.

Many argue that we do not need a balanced budget amendment, that we simply ought to balance the budget. Let me suggest to you that for 40 years that has not worked. Indeed, in my opinion, there does need to be a change in procedure and there does need to be some discipline that causes us to have a balanced budget.

We have made a good start. We will pass a measure that causes Congress to live under the same laws that it mandated for others. Next week, we will move to eliminate unfunded Federal mandates. We need to pass a balanced budget amendment and give the President line-item-veto authority. As we demand a smaller Federal Government, we need to lead by example and reduce the congressional bureaucracy.

The American people support these changes. They will go a long way toward building the base from which to bring fundamental change to every sector of the Government.

Mr. President, there will be many important issues debated on the floor of the Senate over the next 2 years. Some of my priorities include health care reform, tax reduction, welfare reform, and reducing the growth of Federal ownership of public lands, to name just a few. But no issue is as important as the structural changes I mentioned earlier.

Without significant change in the way the Congress and the Federal Government operates, other important changes in policy will be difficult. The American people will be watching closely to see if we respond to their cry for change. I certainly heard that message in Wyoming loud and clear. I hope that this time, Washington is listening, as well.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LIFETIME DREAM REALIZED

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, 40 years ago, when my wife, Mary, and I were students at LSU, we discussed my dream of some day serving in the U.S. Senate.

I am one of those few fortunate human beings who have seen his dreams fulfilled in the fullest and most satisfying sense. This year, 1995, marks my 31st consecutive year in elective office. Over 22 of those years have been in this most noble and hallowed institution.

James MacGregor Burns says that the measure of a man is not the honors he has received, but the difference he has made by his service.

Mr. President, I believe that, working with my colleagues and a wonderful staff, we have made a difference for Louisiana. When I first started working on the North-South Highway for Louisiana, the trip was bumpy, dangerous, and slow. Today, Interstate 49 competes for motor freight shipments with a brand new Red River navigation system. We have improved our ports, dredged our rivers and harbors and built levees to control our flooding. By Federal statute, we have set aside over \$600 million in a so-called 8(g) fund for education, and we have built research facilities and secured research funds for all our institutions of higher learning in Louisiana. By Federal law, we have created nine wildlife refuges, with more than 100,000 acres of protected land, and three national parks that now receive over 1 million visitors a year.

I am proud of these accomplishments, but I am most proud of what they will mean for the young people of our State.

Mr. President, it has been my privilege to serve on the Energy Committee for 22 years, 8 of those as chairman, and to have a hand in every major piece of legislation which has been passed from that committee during those years, from deregulation of natural gas to the National Energy Policy Act. We have pushed free markets, free trade and free enterprise. We have fought for the poor, for the disadvantaged, and for our senior citizens.

These 22 years have been successful and satisfying. I have simply loved it. But now, Mr. President, I must decide whether to continue Senate service or to depart in 2 years at the end of this term. Much argues for continued service. I love the Senate and I love to legislate. I am in superb health and have abundant energy, and reelection, though never assured, seems highly likely.

Nevertheless, Mr. President, I am today announcing that I will terminate my Senate service at the end of this term. I will not seek reelection in 1996.

There are rhythms and tides and seasons in life. I have been fortunate in my life to sense the rhythm and sail it full tide, and now I believe that the season for a new beginning approaches. As my colleague Russell Long used to say, "It is important to retire as a champ and to leave the stage when the crowd still likes your singing."

I make this announcement now for two reasons. First, to allow me to devote my full time and attention to what will be a very active and, I hope, productive 2 years, and, second, to allow time for my would-be successors to make their plans and to conduct their campaigns.

Who will succeed me? I do not now have a candidate, but I want my successor to share some deeply held views of mine: that politics and public service are synonymous; that the pursuit of public office is a high calling—in our society, it is the best opportunity for helping your State, your country, and your fellow man; that the Senate, with its faults and criticisms, remains a bulwark of our democracy and a hallowed institution. I will stand up for it, will not bash it and will defend it against those who do. Years 1995 and 1996 will be an exciting 2 years, and after that I look forward to a new life and new challenges, doing what I do not know except that it will not be retirement.

Mr. President, I love the State of Louisiana. Its people have bestowed upon me honor and power and a rare privilege. For that, I, my wife, and my family are profoundly grateful.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The Senator from Louisiana.

SENATOR BENNETT JOHNSTON'S EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE SENATE

Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, we have just heard a very profound and a very significant statement by the senior Senator from my State of Louisiana, very significant in what it means to my State of Louisiana, significant in what it means to this Senate by his announcement—very profound, indeed, because of what it says about an individual and what his priorities are and what he thinks public service is all about.

When our State looks back over the long history of service by my colleague, people will remember a number of tremendous contributions and contributions yet to be made in the last 2 years of his term in the Senate. I look back and remember the David Duke campaign and a BENNETT JOHNSTON who stopped him in his tracks. I look at projects throughout our State of Louisiana: The Red River project, which would clearly not be there except for his strong commitment and never-ending determination to see it started and completed, and it will be because of his effort. I look back and see ideas like risk assessment, which is a very popular idea in 1995, that my colleague championed even before it was an idea in most of our minds. It is now on its way to being the law of the land.

I look back and see a number of universities that today, tomorrow, and in the future will be doing research in science projects which will benefit not only this generation but generations to come because of the wisdom of my senior Senator in seeing that Federal dollars were wisely spent in those areas.

I look back and see the very essence of our State of Louisiana through his efforts in wetlands restoration and wetlands protection that literally future generations will have a State to live in and to enjoy because of his great efforts today and yesterday in devising Federal programs to help those wetlands remain a part of our great State.

Indeed, his services will stand as a monument to all those young men and women who today perhaps are a little turned off by the concept of public service, who think that somehow if you are there, you are not doing the work of the average citizen. BENNETT JOHNSTON's effort has always been to help people in our State to live a better life and to have a better future. So I think that his service will stand as a monument and an incentive to encourage other young people, men and women, to become involved in public service because public service is epitomized by his career, and he still has 2 very important years remaining.

Public service is more than just being a critic. It is more than just being someone who complains about the status quo. Public service, as BENNETT JOHNSTON has carried it out, is public service that means helping to solve problems and helping to construct things that help people and to do things in a very positive sense. In his service in the Senate—and it has been my privilege to be his junior colleague for so long—he will always be remembered as a doer and a person who believed in this institution and who believed in making things happen for the good of all of us. His service will be a shining monument of that type of attitude, of what public service is all about.

I congratulate him and his family for what I know must have been a difficult decision, but I applaud him for having the courage to make it and to serve with all of us over these years in such an exemplary fashion. It gives us a lot after which to pattern our lives and careers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETIREMENT OF BENNETT JOHNSTON

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, on occasions of this kind, we are prone to look back and think historically as well as to absorb the magnitude of the statement of the moment given by my good friend, Senator BENNETT JOHNSTON, from Louisiana.

When I came to the Senate, I had the privilege of serving with Allen Ellender