

there are some who believe that the oil industry should have their rights to do this, no matter what the consequence, and have blocked me from doing it. Now, I could stamp my foot and say I will object to every single bill that comes through here unless I get my way.

Another area on the environment I am working on is to make sure children are protected so that when health and safety laws are written, we take into account the vulnerability of our children, of our pregnant women, of our fragile senior citizens.

Now, I could hold up every bill that comes up and say, I didn't get my way and I'm not going to let anything go through here by unanimous consent because I think children should be protected. Let me tell you, I will fight for the children, I will fight for their safety, and I will fight every day that I live, but I also understand in the U.S. Senate where people come with different viewpoints there is a time when you come together on a bill that may not have every single thing you want.

Mr. President, this is the moment, this is the time. We could have a unanimous consent request made right now to pass the bill that was passed in the House, no changes. We are going to live for another day. Yes, a few of us will not be here next year, but as Senator BRADLEY has said, a lot of us will be, and there will be new people and a new parks bill and there will be a new day. But this parks bill that has all of these important items in it, not the least of which is the Sterling Forest in New Jersey and so many other important parks, it is incredible to me that we cannot resolve this.

One of the things I have been trying to do along with some of my colleagues—the Senators from New Jersey have been helpful, the majority leader, the Democratic leader, the White House—we have been trying to see if there is some way, without adding anything to this bill—because it is very tenuous and it was sent over in a certain form and we should pass it—some way to take care of some non-controversial issues that do not involve our forests and do not involve our wetlands and do not involve the kinds of things we must keep out of this bill. We are working on that.

We are working to give respect to every Senator so that every Senator knows there is another day and this administration has respect for those Senators who may not agree with everything in this bill. That is what we are trying to do, to show good faith and a recognition that not every Senator is happy.

Mr. President, since the majority leader has decided not to call this bill up and he has tied our hands and we cannot file a cloture motion and we cannot vote on this, and we are losing time—if he insists on that particular procedure, which is his call to make, no one else could make the call for him, since the majority leader has set

his course and has said, "I want a parks bill, but I am not bringing the bill up, but we will do this by unanimous consent," if that is the case, then let us come together in the spirit of the closing days of this Congress, in the spirit of the extraordinary Senators who are leaving this U.S. Senate who have fought hard, very hard, for items in this bill, whether it is Senator BRADLEY, Senator KASSEBAUM, just to name a couple, let us come together and without a problem pass this bill and not come to the floor saying, "Well, we want to add more things to this bill."

Yes, we are ending this Congress, but we are coming back in January. We can do many of the things, especially if there is good will and we are not taking up very controversial matters that have been, yes, purposely kept out of this package. We cannot put them back in this package. It is not going to fly. Not everybody got what they want in this package. Not everybody will be thrilled with this package.

As I stand here in the waning hours of this Congress, we have an opportunity to leave here with a parks bill that has not included controversial provisions in it, that will not include controversial provisions in it, but reaches out into this country, into rural areas, urban areas, into the most beautiful parts of this country, into those parts of this country where the beautiful parts are diminishing, and we must reserve them. We can leave this Congress and feel so good that we reached across party lines and passed this bill. If they can do it in the House with a few dissenting votes, we should be able to do it in this U.S. Senate.

I intend to keep the Senate apprised of this issue as often as I have updates.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ALAN SIMPSON: A SENATE STALWART

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I want to pay special tribute to the outstanding career of the senior Senator from Wyoming, ALAN SIMPSON.

Over the past 18 years, I have had the privilege of working with Senator SIMPSON in many different roles. His wit is unequalled. His passion for public life is inspiring. His commitment to the causes in which he believes—often regardless of their political implications—is unshakable.

Of course, during our shared 18 years in Congress, ALAN SIMPSON and I have sometimes disagreed. Neither of us has ever shied away from a healthy debate, so some of those disagreements have

been relatively spirited. But I have always respected his skill and determination, and I have always considered him a friend.

Senator SIMPSON has won many legislative battles. He's also lost a few. But he has never allowed the odds against victory to discourage him from a battle he believed to be worth fighting, and he has never lost his sense of humor.

Senator SIMPSON's special blend of humor and policy interests is exemplified in the book he is about to publish: "Right in the Old Gazoo: Observations From a Lifetime of Scrapping With the Press."

ALAN SIMPSON was born in Cody, WY, to a family with a long tradition of public service. His grandfather, William, was a successful and respected attorney. His father, Mildred, was elected Governor and later served Wyoming in the U.S. Senate.

ALAN followed that tradition well. In 1958, he graduated from the University of Wyoming Law School. In 1966, he was elected to the Wyoming State Legislature, and, in 1978, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he will long be remembered as one of the most influential and effective Senators in Wyoming history.

After 30 years of public service, Senator SIMPSON will be remembered by many for countless different reasons. Some will remember his legislative accomplishments. Some will remember the eloquence of his words or the unique nature of his wit. Others will remember his friendship and the love that he and his wife, Ann, share for their family.

I will remember ALAN SIMPSON for all of those things. The Senate will be a very different place without him, but I am confident that his influence on national affairs will continue through his next challenge as a visiting professor at Harvard. Senator SIMPSON will assume the Lombard Chair at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. We know he will bring all of the talents he brought to this body as Senator to that responsibility as well. And all of those who are going to share the good fortune of having the opportunity to listen to him, to experience his wit, to experience his intellect, to experience his great vision about this country and the way he sees it today, will clearly be the beneficiaries. Linda and I wish him and Ann the very best.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FRAHM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. FRAHM. Mr. President, we are in morning business. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mrs. FRAHM. Mr. President, I request up to 10 minutes.

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

Mrs. FRAHM. Thank you, Mr. President.

MY DEDICATED STAFF

Mrs. FRAHM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my gratitude for a group of individuals who all too often don't receive the credit that they deserve, but we all know in this Chamber that they help to make everything happen. I am speaking of the staff, and particularly the staff that has served and supported me since the day I was sworn in as Senator.

When Senator Dole departed this Chamber, among his rich legacy was a dedicated group of individuals totally committed to him and equally devoted to the State of Kansas. I was fortunate to inherit this group of professionals, and together we have completed much of the work for Kansas that Senator Dole had begun. Their experience, their knowledge, and their tireless efforts on behalf of our State has once again helped to make a difference.

To Bob Dole, public service has been both an honorable and a worthy pursuit. "Making a difference" is how Bob puts it. In the Dole lexicon, there is no higher compliment than to tell someone that they have made a difference. If he were here today, I know Bob Dole would join me and the U.S. Senate in thanking our Hart Office staff, Sarah Brown, Darren Dick, Keira Franz, Ruth Ann Komarek, Tom Lewis, Kevin Linskey, Megan Lucas, Nathan Muyskens, Lisa Reynolds, Ron Seeber, Janet Sena, Amy Smith, Dan Stanley, Erin Streeter, David Wilson, and Mike Torrey for all of the loyal service they have given this body and to Kansas.

As Bob Dole would put it, "You have made a difference."

As each of the Senators know, the people who work in our State offices provide that vital link between the people and their Government. They serve on the front lines. They help people in need, listen to their problems, receive the brunt of their frustrations, and in our absence these people toil daily in an effort to connect the Government to people's lives. I want to pay special tribute to our State office staff, Chuck Alderson, Judy Brown, Alan Cobb, Romona Corbin, Diana Doms, Gale Grosch, Dave Spears, and Cathie Yeager. Kansas is proud and deeply appreciative of their service.

There are five other special people who have been with me from the beginning that I would also like to thank. They are Trent Ledoux, Bruce Lott, Jim Rowland, Gayle Shaw, and Dave Young. Their service to me and to Kansas will always be remembered and appreciated.

Mr. President, thank you.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I ask to be recognized to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

SALUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I begin by paying my respects to those Senators who are departing this body. One of the great privileges for me has been to have worked with them. I think each in his own right has added considerably to the dimension of the Senate, and particularly one Senator, NANCY KASSEBAUM, I wish to salute her for her many additions. I have had the occasion to sit on the Foreign Relations Committee with her and to observe her and watch her and see her do her homework. For me as a woman this has been a very special experience. So I want to particularly salute her and also to thank the departing Senators for all of the courtesies they have extended to me and to the State of California.

REACHING ACCOMMODATION ON THE PARKS BILL

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I echo the comments of my colleague, Senator BOXER, on the parks bill in the hopes that some accommodation can be formulated in the next few hours that will give us a bill.

One of the most difficult things about this body, and I suppose any other body, is that we do not always get what we would like to get or think we deserve in good conscience or what the body owes or what the Government should respond to. However, this is an important bill, and literally dozens of States are impacted, all of them positively, by this bill. For California, it is a particularly important bill.

I thank the chairman of the committee for his indulgence, and I hope in the next few hours there can be some conclusion to this which will bring before us a bill that is significant for every Member of this body.

PENDING JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I want to address my remarks today to pending judicial nominations. It is my understanding that there may be some agreement to bring forward some additional judicial appointments before this Senate adjourns. I certainly hope that is the case. I want to point out five specific judges, relating to California, some of which have been before this body for a substantial period of time, and the importance of those nominations.

We essentially have two appointments to the Ninth Circuit Court of

Appeals which could be filled by this Senate in the next day. The first is William Fletcher. He is a Harvard College graduate. He is a Rhodes Scholar. He is a Navy officer. He is a graduate of Yale Law School. He has been a law clerk for Justice Brennan, and a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley since 1977. He actually received the university's distinguished teaching award in 1993.

I was sitting on the Judiciary Committee when he came up for review. He passed that committee with a favorable recommendation by a vote of 12 to 6. At that time there was some concern about his mother's service on the ninth circuit. An overture was made, as to whether his mother would be willing to either retire or take senior status. She has since said that she would be willing to take senior status to avoid any tinge of nepotism, should he be appointed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I might say this. The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Professor Fletcher, "well qualified." That is its highest rating. His academic colleagues have stated to us that he is fair minded and politically moderate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a number of letters regarding Professor Fletcher's nomination be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. It is very hard to understand why he has been lingering on the Executive Calendar, essentially since May 16, without our having an opportunity to discuss his candidacy on the floor of the U.S. Senate. I hope we would have that opportunity. I think it is important that we do so.

Another candidate who has been waiting before this body since June 27, when she passed the Judiciary Committee on a unanimous vote, is Margaret Morrow, who has been nominated for District Judge in the Central District of California, in Los Angeles. She is a graduate of Bryn Mawr magna cum laude. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School, cum laude. She is a partner in a prominent Los Angeles law firm.

She has won the Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award from the California Judicial Council in 1995. She has received the Ernestine Stalhut Award for the most distinguished woman lawyer in Los Angeles. She has received the President's award from the California Association of Court-Appointed Special Advocates. She has received the Pro Bono Advocacy Award from the Western Center on Law and Poverty. She has received a number of special awards.

She is the first woman president of the California Bar Association and served as president of the Los Angeles Bar Association. She was found also to be "well qualified."