

COMMENDING EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask the resolution commending the majority leader be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 323) to commend the exemplary leadership of the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Senate resolution to commend the exemplary leadership of the distinguished majority leader, the Honorable TRENT LOTT of Mississippi.

Senator LOTT is the 16th majority leader in the U.S. Senate and the first Mississippian ever to hold the Senate's top leadership post. He was elected to serve as majority leader on June 12, 1996.

The majority leader has earned the respect of his colleagues in both the House and Senate, having served in the House of Representatives for eight terms. While serving in the House, Senator LOTT was elected chairman of the House Republican Research Committee and for 8 years he served as the Republican Whip. The personal friendships he developed in the House have contributed well to his recent dealings with the other chamber.

Senator LOTT was elected to the Senate in 1988 and continued his leadership service as Secretary of the Senate Republican Conference. In 1995, he was elected Senate Majority whip and is the first person to be elected to the position of whip in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. President, since assuming the challenging responsibilities as majority leader, Senator LOTT has shown a penchant for moving legislation and a willingness to do so in a bipartisan manner. The majority leader has solid footing in the Senate's top post and it is not on the backs of his colleagues. Rather, Senator LOTT has worked in cooperation with the distinguished minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, and has been at our side in the trenches of this legislative arena. The Majority Leader has cooperated with all Senators to facilitate the orderly procession of the Senate's business.

Mr. President, Senator LOTT has a wonderful family and I extend my best wishes to his lovely wife, Tricia and their two fine children, Chet and Tyler. They are justifiably proud of Senator LOTT as a husband, father, and dedicated public servant. I am honored to call him my leader in the U.S. Senate and my good friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 323) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 323

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the distinguished Majority Leader, the Senator from Mississippi, the Honorable Trent Lott, for his exemplary leadership and the cooperative and dedicated manner in which he has performed his leadership responsibilities in the conduct of Senate business during the second session of the 104th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

THANKS TO STAFF

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, there has been a lot of tributary praise on the floor of the Senate in the last few days. We have heard praise for Members, praise for spouses, and praise for the Senate itself. We have also heard a great deal of praise for staff members, and I want to add to that by taking a moment to say thanks to the many staff members I have worked with over the years.

It is easy to take staff for granted. Much of what they do is carried out in such a way that we might not be aware always of what they are doing. But they put in long hours just like Senators do. They are dedicated not only to us, but to the States we serve. My staff has helped thousands of Alabamians and other citizens with problems ranging from lost Workmans' Compensation benefits to delayed retirement checks to securing visas for overseas travel at the last minute.

I have been fortunate to have many long-time staff members who have been with me for many years, some since my first year in the Senate. Others have not been here as long, but have still made valuable contributions. Most have come from Alabama or had some connection to the State, such as being an alumnus of a university or college there, but others have come from the Washington area and other parts of the east coast.

I am proud of my staff, both here in Washington and in my four State offices. They have done an outstanding job for the Senate, for the State of Alabama, and for the Nation. Rather than name any one of them individually, at this time I ask unanimous consent that a list of my current staff with their hometowns and date of joining the office be printed in the RECORD after my remarks.

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

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, to all of them and to all of those who have served in the past and moved on to retirement, K Street, or some other career, I extend a hearty thanks for a job well-done.

EXHIBIT 1

SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN'S ALABAMA AND WASHINGTON STAFF

(Including Hometowns and Date of Joining Office)

Denise Addison, data entry clerk, Washington, DC, Jan. 1986. Ann Berry, office manager, Birmingham, AL, April

1979. Cappie Brooks, secretary, Birmingham, AL, March 1989. Tim BROWN, state director, Enterprise, AL, Feb. 1985. Allen "Beau" Greenwood, legislative assistant, Corpus Christi, TX, February 1995. Joyce Hackworth, case worker, Birmingham, AL, January 1979. Thad Huguley, legislative assistant, Lanett, AL, August 1992. Lea Hurt, communications director, Decatur, AL, July 1991. Brenda Jarvis, state representative, Montgomery, AL, December 1990. Jan Johnson, state representative, Tuscumbia, AL, January 1979. Jeanne Jones, staff assistant, Mobile, AL, September 1982. Betty Lanier, secretary, Midway, AL, April 1986. Alan Leeth, legislative assistant/counsel, Opelika, AL, December, 1995. Winston Lett, Judiciary subcommittee minority chief counsel, Opelika, AL, October 1989. Mansel Long, legislative director, Tuscumbia, AL, February 1979. Judy Lovell, production manager, Bowie, MD, August 1987. Kristi Mashon, archivist, Austin, TX, June 1995. Kimberly McDonald, caseworker, Gaithersburg, MD, November 1991. Tom McMahon, press secretary, Montgomery, AL, February 1989. Jackie Natter, legislative assistant, Birmingham, AL, November 1994. Barry Phelps, speechwriter/legislative assistant, Birmingham, AL October 1990. Steve Raby, administrative assistant, Harvest, AL, January 1984. Rob Schultz, legislative aide, Allentown, PA, June 1996. Barbara Sherrill, secretary, Sheffield, AL, November 1985. Samantha Smith, scheduler, Florence, AL, August 1993. Mary Spies, personal secretary, Washington, DC, January 1979. Yolanda Turner, mail clerk, Suitland, MD, August 1992. Stanley Vines, state representative, Birmingham, AL, April 1984. Heidi Wagner, staff assistant, Mobile, AL, July 1995. Sally Walburn, receptionist, Tuscaloosa, AL, June 1996. Connie Weavil, receptionist, Winston-Salem, NC, June 1995. Jim Whiddon, judiciary subcommittee minority counsel, Montgomery, AL, November 1993. Janet Whit-Mitchell, state representative, Mobile, AL, August 1989.

Mr. COCHRAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

COMMENDING THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, let me add a few brief words of comment in support of the resolutions that were adopted earlier. As we wrap up this session of the 104th Congress, I am constrained to commend, in a very sincere way, the work that has been done by my distinguished colleague, who I serve with, from my State of Mississippi, TRENT LOTT.

As he has taken the reins of majority leader and discharged the duties of that important office, I have been very proud of him, and our entire State has been proud of him, in the way he has managed these challenges, handled this job in good grace, with a good sense of

humor, with a keen insight into how to get things done in the U.S. Congress, and with a great deal of integrity.

He has reflected credit on the U.S. Senate and on the State of Mississippi, and I congratulate him very sincerely. I thank him for the honor of serving with him as his colleague from our State.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished senior colleague from the State of Mississippi for his comments this afternoon, and I thank him also for the relationship we have had together in Congress now over the last 24 years. We were in the House together, I believe, for 6 years, and then he came to the Senate in 1978. We continued to work together across the Capitol, and it was my great honor to join him in this body beginning in January 1989.

It has been a great relationship, one that I treasure very much. We not only enjoy working together on behalf of our State, I enjoy his company, and we quite often have lunch together. I have sided in next to him in that historic desk he has as the senior Senator from Mississippi, and we talk about our families, our wives, our football team, our future and our country, and I enjoy it always. We even tell a few stories, a few Mississippi jokes along the way to each other, but more than anything else, when the going gets rough, when I want real serious, steady, reliable advice given to me straight up, I go to my Senator from Mississippi who I work with from our delegation, and he gives me very good advice.

He has been a member of the leadership of the Senate now for many years. He has done an excellent job as chairman of our Republican conference. He is in our leadership meetings, and invariably, again, his advice and counsel is very good, and it is worth listening to. I found when I listen to it, I do OK, and when I don't, I usually mess up some way or the other.

I thank him for his comments today, but I also thank him for the fine relationship we have. We will continue to work together for our State and our country, and I look forward to that opportunity.

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

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

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on September 26, the Senate failed to override the President's veto of a bill to ban a procedure known commonly as partial-birth abortion. Toward the end of that

rollcall vote No. 301, I changed my vote to nay. At the time, I am sure all my colleagues realized why I did so. I immediately entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which the veto was sustained. In order to be able to make that motion to reconsider, it was, of course, necessary for me to cast my vote on the prevailing side. It was, indeed, my intention to return to the motion to reconsider the override vote, in the hope that continued public discussion and consideration might cause some of our colleagues to rethink their position and, in fact, vote to override the President's veto of the partial-birth abortion ban.

But the 104th Congress has run out of time, and it has been clear that no constructive purpose would have been served by yet another vote. While I am sure some Senators are having some serious second thoughts about that vote, there has been no indication that there has been a sufficient number change to reverse that earlier vote on the override.

I therefore ask unanimous consent to withdraw my motion to reconsider rollcall No. 301 and that the permanent RECORD of the 104th Congress note my intention to be included with the 57 other Senators who voted to override President Clinton's veto of the partial-birth abortion ban.

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

Mr. LOTT. Let me say just a few words about the partial-birth abortion issue.

This is a matter that has touched the conscience of America. I note that, on both sides of the aisle, there are now several pro-choice Members who support the ban on partial-birth abortions.

I will not soon forget the dramatic moment when Senator COATS read the letter from our Coloradan colleague, Senator CAMPBELL, written from his hospital bed, telling us he would vote to override the veto, even though he supports abortion rights.

This is clearly an issue that will not go away. Indeed, I anticipate early action on it in the 105th Congress. By which time, continuing public education about the partial-birth procedure will, I believe, change many congressional minds.

Here is just one example. Most of the debate on both sides of this issue, has concentrated on the use of partial-birth abortion in late-term pregnancies. That may, indeed, be the most shocking aspect.

But interviews with abortion doctors by the Washington Post, the American Medical News, and the Bergen County, N.J., Record reveal that the great majority of partial-birth abortions—thousands every year—are performed in the fifth and sixth months of pregnancy. And almost all of them are performed for entirely nonmedical reasons.

When President Clinton vetoed the partial-birth abortion ban, he suggested an alternative. It turns out that his alternative would be, in practical

terms, nothing more than the status quo.

In the first place, it would not ban a single one of the thousands of partial-birth abortions performed in the second trimester of pregnancy.

In the second place, its "serious health" loophole, as "health" has been interpreted by the courts, would render meaningless restrictions even in the last months of pregnancy.

When the Senate returns to this issue in 1997, as indeed it must, I hope we will find sufficient unity to ban the partial-birth procedure at all stages of pregnancy.

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.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR WILLIAM COHEN

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, earlier today the Senate Armed Services Committee had a hearing. It happened to be that the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were our principal witnesses, and the subject was the ongoing controversy in Bosnia.

Seated next to me, as he has been for these many years of joint service on that committee, was Senator BILL COHEN. It is hard for me to express in words my respect for this great American and this great U.S. Senator, a man who truly is a global thinker. And today he was as profound and as incisive as he has been for all these years that I have been privileged to serve with him on the Armed Services Committee.

He has occupied, somewhere in this area of the Senate floor, the chair that he has selected for Maine. But Maine's chair is the chair for the United States of America when it comes to the matter of national security, foreign policy.

We may have differed on some occasions, but more often we have been together. And he has been a fearless speaker, an absolutely fearless speaker and advocate for what he believes is best for the United States and, indeed, the world.

We have taken trips together. I have seen him in the presence of world leaders, heads of State, heads of Government, and within moments after entering a room, whether it is Europe, Asia, or the Middle East, he is greeted and accepted and listened to as an equal.

He is a very hard worker, diligent in his representation for his State, a prodigious student of history. But he always found time, Mr. President, he always found time to spread his great intellect on the written pages of books, be they novels, or, more importantly, for this Senator, be they poems. Lucky