

forthcoming on a number of issues that we did not want in our bill. It is not in the Senate bill. It is down to the issue of medical savings accounts. The House feels very strongly about it, and I think about half of the Members here feel very strongly about it.

So it seems to me that we ought to reach some accommodation on medical savings accounts and send this bill to the President for his signature. I assume he will sign it. There have been a lot of different proposals made—some rather useless, and others that I think have some merit. Hopefully, we can resolve that.

I understand Senator KASSEBAUM will be sending us—and maybe it is in my office now—a counterproposal, on which I will meet and discuss with my House colleagues, in the hopes that we can resolve that, too, before the day is out.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator be willing to yield briefly on that subject matter?

Mr. DOLE. Sure.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. If the Senator will suspend for a moment, I will take care of another matter.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3120

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. I ask the clerk to read a bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3120) to amend Title 18, United States Code, with respect to witness retaliation, witness tampering, and jury tampering.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I object to further consideration of this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I appreciate the majority leader yielding. I join with him in the eternal hope that, perhaps while he is still here, there may be a successful conclusion of this legislation; or, if not, at least an agreement can be made that can be followed up in his absence. I have stated on other occasions that the majority leader has been very much involved in this legislation.

Senator KASSEBAUM has been a real leader on this issue. It has been a bipartisan process in the Senate. Many of the ideas that have been incorporated in the legislation dealing with pre-existing conditions, and portability have been incorporated from the legislation that the majority leader has offered in the past. Although we have had differences on the MSA issue, he, nonetheless, has indicated, since the time that he announced he was going

to leave the Senate, that he was very hopeful that this legislation could be achieved while he was still here.

As recently as June 6 he indicated that its chances of success—and I think, he accurately portrayed it—are much greater with his presence here than without it. So I urge that the majority leader, because of the importance of this legislation, as well as the importance that he has placed on this legislation, and his involvement in it, that we would get the agreement, hopefully pass it while he was here; and I was even bold enough to suggest that he might want to remain here for the next few days until we were able to get this accomplished. More than 25 million Americans will be helped each year by this legislation, so it should be a top priority.

I want to ask the leader about his willingness to accept a reasonable compromise. I know that I speak in this instance for the President, who is most interested in getting a test of the idea of the MSA's, which is the principal issue at this point. The proposal from the House would provide the MSA's for approximately 80 percent of all the workers in the country. This obviously is unacceptable. I am hopeful that, with the majority leader's assistance, we could have a test of the idea so that we could explore whether it is helpful. I think reasonable people could find ways of finding a test without adopting a proposal which in effect moves toward coverage of 80 percent of the people and then eventually moves toward complete coverage without additional Senate intervention. This program is potentially too destructive to go that route. I hope he will use his own good offices to try to work with all parties to see if a legitimate proposal that could accurately be portrayed as a real test of the idea could be put into place.

There have been four separate proposals that have been advanced by the President and by others. There have been some which have been advanced by our Republican friends.

But this would be a great victory for the American people which I think the majority leader ought to share in if we are able to over the period of these next several hours agree on a real test of the idea, and I mean a reasonable kind of test and examination and evaluation prior to expanding the proposal.

Am I correct that at least the leader is going to try to see if that concept could be at least included in these negotiations?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts. I understand we have now received a proposal from my colleague, Senator KASSEBAUM. We are in the process of reviewing that proposal. I am not certain that the Senator from Massachusetts has a copy of it. But it indicates that we might be able to reach some compromise. I would like nothing better if we could conclude that today, have conferees appointed, and come to a satisfactory conclusion because, as the

Senator outlined, it affects millions of Americans. It should be done. And maybe—speaking for myself, I would like to have it done before I leave. But at least if that cannot happen, I would like to have the agreement before tomorrow at 2 o'clock, and maybe under the Senate rules we could deem it passed sometime after the House takes it up. I will have to check with the Parliamentarian on that. But if we have something to agree to, everybody in the Senate, as the Senator knows, the original bill passed unanimously—hopefully we could reach some agreement today, and at least have the agreement entered. Then the Senator from Massachusetts, the Senator from Kansas, and others could dispose of it later this week.

I thank the Senator.

Mr. KENNEDY. I have not seen the proposal, and I would welcome a chance to review it—and others who have been involved in that endeavor as well; not just myself but others. Senator KASSEBAUM—we take obviously her leadership role very seriously. I hope that this time that we could work out a real evaluation of the concept without exposing tens of millions of our fellow citizens to serious disruption in their health insurance if this does not work as well as its advocated claim. That is basically the issue. I know Senator KASSEBAUM was strongly committed toward an evaluation, a reasonable experimentation, a reasonable assessment, and reporting back. I say that would certainly offer an opportunity to move this forward. I hope that would be the proposal that would be out there rather than just the imposition of the program on a vast number of our citizens. But we will certainly look forward to it.

I thank the Senator.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, if I could use my leader time. Is leader time reserved?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Leader time is reserved.

The majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO SAM NUNN

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, on August 4, 1789, in the first year of existence, the U.S. Senate approved legislation to establish the Department of War. In the nearly 207 years since that date, the Senate has always devoted a great deal of attention to matters of national security.

Few Senators in that time, however, have devoted as much attention as Senator SAM NUNN of Georgia, who will leave this Senate next January after 24 years of service. While Senator NUNN and I have not agreed on every issue, I am just one of many Republicans who has always respected his expertise and admired his patriotism.

I especially recall the affection and admiration which our former colleague Barry Goldwater had for Senator NUNN. During the first 6 years of the Reagan administration, Senator Goldwater and

Senator NUNN worked on a bipartisan basis to rebuild America's military.

Senator NUNN has also worked with another military expert, Senator RICHARD LUGAR, in working with the former Soviet Republic to relinquish their nuclear weapons.

On nondefense matters, I have appreciated Senator NUNN's strong support for a balanced budget amendment, product liability reform, and anticrime and antidrug efforts.

The high respect in which Senator NUNN is held in Washington, DC, is echoed in his home State of Georgia. In 1978, Senator NUNN won reelection with 83 percent of the vote. In 1984, he received 80 percent, he ran completely unopposed.

It goes without saying, then, that Senator NUNN could have won reelection this year. He has chosen to leave on his own terms, and I have no doubt that his voice will continue to be an important one for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO AL SIMPSON

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, as I look back on my years in the Senate, there are many Members to whom I am indebted for the friendship and support they have given me. I can think of no better friend, however, and no more reliable ally than AL SIMPSON.

As all Members know, AL served for 10 years as Republican whip. And no doubt about it, he made being Republican leader a much easier job. Every time I needed help, every time there was work to be done, every time something was needed as soon as possible, AL SIMPSON was there, getting the job done, and doing it with the one of a kind sense of humor that is his trademark.

AL SIMPSON is not only one of the wittiest men in Washington, he is also one of the most courageous.

From immigration to entitlement reform, he has made a habit of tackling the toughest and most controversial of issues, calling them as he sees them, and letting the cards fall where they may.

A few weeks back, much of Washington gathered to salute AL SIMPSON. Well, actually, much of Washington gathered to salute AL's wife, Ann. I regret that a delayed flight kept me from attending what by all reports was a wonderful evening. Speaker after speaker—Republicans and Democrats alike—rose to salute AL and Ann for all they have done for this institution and this city.

The highlight of the event was when former President George Bush offered an emotional tribute to the man who he called his best friend in the Senate. While AL's retirement means that President Bush is gaining a fishing buddy, it means that the Senate is losing one of its finest.

I have said before that AL SIMPSON embodies the American spirit many associate with the American cowboy. He is honest, independent, and he always

judges people not by money or position—but by character.

It was once written that "out where the handclasp's a little stronger, out where the smile dwells a little longer, that is where the West begins."

If that is the case, then the fact of the matter is that the West begins wherever AL SIMPSON is, because wherever he goes, he brings handclasp and smiles with him.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY KASSEBAUM

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I guess it is hard to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator KASSEBAUM, because she has done such an outstanding job. And there is no question about it. She is the most popular politician we have had in our State—the most popular "politician in politics," let us put it that way; some do not like the word "politician"—for years.

Over the past several days, I have paid tribute to those colleagues who are retiring from the Senate at the conclusion of the 104th Congress; this is my final tribute.

During my years representing Kansas in the U.S. Senate, it has been my privilege to serve alongside two remarkable colleagues from Kansas.

The first was Jim Pearson, who was a Senator of great common sense and great integrity—a Senator who was widely respected by Members on both sides of the aisle.

For the past 18 years, I have had the privilege of serving alongside another person respected by all Senators for her common sense and integrity—Senator NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM.

Senator KASSEBAUM is retiring at the end of this session, so she can spend more time with her children and grandchildren. The voters of Kansas, who have cast their ballots for her in overwhelming numbers, understand her desire to come home, but they also understand that this Chamber will be losing one of its most thoughtful and effective Members.

NANCY KASSEBAUM does not speak in a loud voice. She does not clamor for media attention. But as all Senators know, while her voice may be quiet, her will is strong. For 18 years she has simply represented the people of Kansas to the best of her abilities, and she had made a positive difference for Kansas and America in the process.

As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator KASSEBAUM has made a habit of staking out policies that provide to be prophetic. She was instrumental in the policies that helped to move South Africa away from apartheid, and she saw Saddam Hussein as a danger long before many others.

As ranking member and then Chair of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, she had fought to return dollars and decisions to the local levels, remembering the words of her father, Alf Landon, who once said, "There are some smart people in Washington, DC. There are more of them in Topeka."

Although as of tomorrow, I will no longer be NANCY's colleague, I will still be her constituent. And along with all other Kansans, I will take great pride in being able to say for 6 more months—as I have for 18 years—that NANCY KASSEBAUM is my Senator.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JIM EXON

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I have often said that the people of Kansas and Nebraska share a great deal in common besides a border. We share commonsense values. We share agricultural interests. We share a preference for public officials who say what they will do, and who do what they say.

For the past 26 years—8 in the Governor's office, and 18 here in the Senate—one of Nebraska's preeminent public officials has been JIM EXON.

A small businessman before he entered public service, Senator EXON has devoted a great deal of time to restoring fiscal responsibility to Government. Senator EXON practices what he preaches, regularly returning a substantial portion of his office allowance to the treasury.

Senator EXON has also proposed a budget freeze, and did vote for the balanced budget amendment last year. And Senator EXON knows how much I regret his decision to now oppose that amendment.

Senator EXON and I have disagreed on a variety of issues over the years, but with me—as with every other Senator—JIM EXON was always upfront and to the point.

I join with all my colleagues in wishing JIM and Pat EXON the best as they return to the State they love so much and have served so well.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BYRD

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, during 1987 and 1988, I delivered a series of nearly 300 brief speeches on the Senate floor to commemorate the long history of this great institution.

Each of these so-called Senate bicentennial minutes focused on a significant person, custom, or event associated with the Senate's development during its first two centuries.

The inspiration for this project came from my fellow floor leader during that 100th Congress, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. Beginning in 1980, Senator BYRD launched an unprecedented series of hour-long addresses to the Senate detailing this body's rich history. The 100-part series was completed in November 1989.

In recognition of this extraordinary achievement, Congress agreed to publish these addresses in four richly illustrated volumes that today are universally known as "Byrd's Senate History."

Senator BYRD has not only written about the Senate's history, he has also made it. He has set so many major records that he can justly be considered the Cal Ripken and the Michael Jordan of the Senate.