

of the 10 top growth States in the Nation. We are proud to be a part of the Nation's team. Mississippi will always, in the future, do everything we can to play our part of contributing to a better America.

It is no wonder that we are humbled when we reach these positions. I am most humbled because I know of the work we have to do. In fact, I had a friend this morning ask me, "Where's the party? Where's the celebration?" I said, "Well, there'll be no party. There'll be no celebration. There'll be a lot of 'thank you's,' and then this comment: Let's go to work."

To friends on the other side of the aisle, let me say that one lesson I learned very well from Bob Dole is that this place cannot operate effectively for our country if the two leaders do not have a relationship of complete trust and respect. Senator DASCHLE had that relationship with Senator Dole. And he will have it from me. We have been friends for many years in the House, now in the Senate. I have talked to a lot of his colleagues. I believe we can work together. Oh, we will disagree. We will have some good debate. But we will always remember that the best thing for us to do is to work together for our country. We can find a way to do that.

Mr. President, I do have just some brief comments on today's schedule. I am glad to withhold those if the Senator would like to comment at this point.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Democratic leader is recognized.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will be very brief. Let me compliment the distinguished majority leader on his remarks, and congratulate him on his election. His leadership team sits among those on the floor today who demonstrate, in my view, a new generation of leadership, a generation that has had a good deal of experience, a generation that represents geographical diversity, a generation that I believe recognizes the importance of governance. We look forward to the opportunity of serving together.

As I consider the past, as I consider the record and the résumé of the distinguished majority leader, I find many things in common. He is from a small State, as am I. He was a staff member, as was I. He was a Member of the House, and now a Member of the Senate for not that long a period of time. And so given those similar experiences and given what I know to be his desire to lead and to govern and to work together, I begin this day and this new period in this session of Congress with great expectations, with optimism, with the belief that we can, as he just indicated, come together, as Senator Dole suggested we do yesterday.

I thought it was revealing yesterday in the remarkable speech made by the

former majority leader that the most significant accomplishments that he chose to recognize as he looked back over his past were those accomplishments that were forged through bipartisan efforts. That included, of course, the legislation for the disabled, it included nutrition legislation, it included an array of issues dealing with civil rights.

The majority leader looked back fondly at those accomplishments and called upon all of us to remember the great Senators who have come before, Senators on both sides of the aisle.

I have no doubt that if, indeed, we are to rise again to that standard, that there can be no other alternative but for us to work together. So it is with that intent and with a sincere desire to do so that I congratulate the new team. And I look forward to working, beginning today, to forge that compromise, to strike the opportunities that we have while they are there, and to work to make this a better country.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Democratic leader for his remarks, and the remarks made in other forums by my good friend from North Dakota, Senator DORGAN.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each. Following morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the budget resolution conference report.

Under the order of last night, a vote will occur on the conference report at 3:30 today if the official papers have been presented to us from the House. I understand that the conference report may not be received by 3:30; therefore, the vote may occur on the budget later on today or even Thursday morning. But certainly I will consult with the Democratic leader on the exact time, and we will notify the Members as soon as that decision is made. The Senate may also be asked to consider any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). There will now be a period for morning business.

Mr. COCHRAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am very pleased to be able to rise on the

floor of the Senate today to congratulate my good friend and State colleague, TRENT LOTT, upon his election as the majority leader of the U.S. Senate.

You have to go back to 1937 to find an instance of a Mississippi Senator being so close to the powerful position that my friend now occupies. Senator Pat Harrison of Dove Port, MS, first was elected to Congress to represent the gulf coast district in Congress, and so was TRENT LOTT some many years later, 1972. Senator Harrison came to the Senate after serving several terms in the House and rose to become chairman of the Finance Committee here in the Senate, and he lost by one vote in a race to be the majority leader of the U.S. Senate. Incidentally, the Senator who won that election was Alben Barkley of Kentucky. After that, he became President pro tempore of the Senate. I mention this to put in context what has happened today. For the first time in history, a Mississippian has been elected majority leader of the U.S. Senate.

I feel very honored and pleased that I have had the pleasure and the privilege of serving with TRENT LOTT for almost 24 years in Congress, first in the House and now in the Senate. I want to commit to him my wholehearted support and my cooperation in helping make his service as majority leader of the Senate the most successful ever for any Senator.

We have been very fortunate in our State in having some outstanding representation, even though none had ever been chosen to serve as majority leader. As a matter of fact, this desk here has written in the drawer the names of some of those distinguished Senators, beginning with Jefferson Davis, who resigned his seat in the Senate from this desk when Mississippi seceded from the Union. It also contains the signatures of Pat Harrison, whom I mentioned, and John Sharp Williams, who was the minority whip in the House before being elected to the Senate.

So TRENT LOTT joins a list of very distinguished leaders of both Houses in representing our State in this very important capacity.

We know that the days ahead are going to be difficult. And I know all of the Members on our side are going to work very closely together. I trust the Members on the other side will, too, to help move the business of the Senate along.

There are some who are predicting gridlock, confrontation, mean-spirited, election-year posturing. Well, let us not have it happen. I challenge the Senate—and I know others feel this way, too—that we can achieve results that help solve problems for the American people in the time we have ahead of us this year. We can do it under the able, energetic, and very experienced leadership that TRENT LOTT brings to the job of majority leader.

So I appreciate very much having the opportunity of being in the same contest with him. Frankly, I learned a lot.

I had never run against TRENT LOTT for anything before. In the conference he spoke in a very precise, clear way.

We were asked in the news conference about the election. I mentioned that I started off in this campaign with a small base of support, and during the campaign it got smaller. That was because of the proven leadership ability of TRENT LOTT and his obviously excellent qualifications for this job.

I am confident that he will be a great success as majority leader. And I am honored to work with him.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I would be pleased to defer to the Senator from South Carolina. I ask unanimous consent that I follow the Senator from South Carolina.

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

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Senator TRENT LOTT upon becoming the majority leader of the U.S. Senate. He is a man of integrity, ability, and dedication, and, in my opinion, will make one of the finest majority leaders that this country has ever had. I believe as time goes by that people will see the wisdom of this man being elected. We are proud of him. We are proud of the State he comes from, the leadership it has produced. We predict great things to happen during the term of Senator LOTT as majority leader.

COMMENDING SENATOR THAD COCHRAN

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, while I am talking, I also commend the other Senator from Mississippi, the able Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi, for the great service he has rendered to his State and Nation. He has been steadfast and sound in his positions, and he has ably represented his constituents. We are proud of him and congratulate him on his accomplishments throughout his entire career.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

THE SENATORS FROM MISSISSIPPI

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I actually came to the floor to speak about another issue, but I do want to, first of all, congratulate Senator LOTT and Senator COCHRAN. I cannot pledge to my friend from Mississippi my wholehearted political support, but I certainly can pledge my personal support.

I wish you well, Senator LOTT. And Senator COCHRAN, I do not think there is anybody that at least I have had a chance to meet on the floor of the Sen-

ate, that is more honorable and more personable. When Senator COCHRAN talks about civility and when he talks about good politics, of bringing people together, he epitomizes that. I mean that very sincerely.

MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to talk about what I hope will be a bipartisan approach, but I speak with a considerable amount of concern. I have worked very closely with my colleague from New Mexico, Senator DOMENICI, a Republican, and very closely with my colleague from Wyoming, Senator SIMPSON, on a mental health amendment to the insurance reform bill.

That amendment passed, Mr. President, by a 68-to-30 vote. What that amendment said was that as we look at insurance reform, we do not mandate benefits, but once plans are put into motion, and once there is an agreement about a particular plan for employees or for citizens, this ought not to be discrimination against people who are struggling with mental illness, illness that is diagnosable and treatable. That amendment passed by a 68-to-30 vote.

What we were simply saying is, for gosh sakes, do not put people in a position where they cannot work because they will not get the coverage, and they have to be on medical assistance. Do not put people in a position where they could do well in school, but they cannot do well in school. Do not put people in a position where they are homeless, and they should not be homeless. Do not put people in a position where they wind up incarcerated, where that is not where they should be.

Mr. President, we had strong bipartisan support. It then went to what will, hopefully, be a conference committee. It is with profound disappointment and some indignation that I say on the floor of the Senate that what has now happened on the part of my Republican colleagues on the House side is they have essentially knocked out the whole amendment.

Mr. President, working with Senator DOMENICI, Senator SIMPSON, people like Senator CONRAD, we came up with a pared-down formulation that said at least for lifetime limits, at least for annual limits, have the same caps as for physical illness, so that people who are struggling with mental illness are not put under economically, so that people can receive the care that they need. We should end this discrimination.

This particular compromise would cost, according to CBO, 0.2 of a 1-percent increase. That is it. Mr. President, there is no good policy reason, I say to my colleagues on the floor of the Senate today, there is no good policy reason why this compromise that we presented to members of the conference committee on the House Republican side should not have been accepted. It is fair. It is equitable. It economically

makes sense. It is just. It is the right thing to do. There is not one single article that can be made against it. Not one single argument that can be made against it.

Now what we hear on the House side from Republicans is that what we will get is a commission to study the problem. Senator DOMENICI does not consider that acceptable. I do not consider that acceptable. Senator SIMPSON does not consider that acceptable. That is not even the point. It is not acceptable for families all across this country who thought we were going to finally end this discrimination.

Mr. President, there will be a press conference this afternoon at 2 o'clock. A lot of the families, men and women and children who are struggling with mental illness, will be there. Several of us will be there. I think what they will say is they are going to visit with every member of that conference committee on the House side, Republican and Democrat alike. They are going to visit, I say to my good colleague from Mississippi, Senator LOTT, they are going to visit with leadership, and they are going to say to leaders and they are going to say to Democrats and Republicans alike: "Tell us why it is still not time to end the discrimination. Tell us why you are unwilling to end this discrimination against our children, against our wives, against our husbands. Tell us when it is not time to end discrimination."

Mr. President, I say to my colleague from Mississippi, if I could get his attention, I want to mention this afternoon at 2 o'clock we will have a press conference with some wonderful families who have been struggling with mental illness. You know Senator DOMENICI cares so much about this. They are going to meet with leadership and say, "Look, the formulation that we now came up with," not the commission, "at least should not have arbitrary caps on lifetime and annual limits, costs 0.2 of 1 percent." It helps end the discrimination. Please do not shut our families out.

I hope you will give them your utmost consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR LOTT

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, let me first add my congratulations to the new majority leader. I think that TRENT LOTT will do an outstanding job and one that will certainly make our party proud, but the country proud as well. I was pleased to have his colleague, THAD COCHRAN, with whom we both entered Congress, stand up in a true southern fashion, extend his warmest wishes and willingness to work with you. It will be a great team from Mississippi and for the rest of the country. I add my accolades to you, Mr. Leader.