

countless forces pulling the authors of this legislation in many different directions. There have been industry groups, individual companies, consumer groups, unions, think tanks, the administration, and many, many more all with an interest in this bill who have rightfully voiced their concerns as this process has gone forward. I admire the long hours of hard work performed by the Commerce Committee and its staff in sorting through the maze of this highly complex issue and producing this conference report. I certainly did not envy these individuals as they tackled this extraordinary difficult task.

While, as I have said, we all respect the ability of the free market to produce jobs and foster economic growth, there are many in Congress who are reluctant to let the marketplace operate completely freely in all telecommunications industries. For example, many of my colleagues are concerned that the regional Bell companies will take undue advantage of their ownership of local telephone networks to compete unfairly in the long distance market. On the other hand, many other colleagues are equally adamant that we should place very few restrictions on Bell companies as they are permitted to offer long distance service.

This debate over long distance represents just one of the many, many difficult balancing acts the managers of this bill struggled with. In short, my colleagues had to reconcile the views of those who wanted to let the marketplace more or less reign free with those who sought regulatory protection for industries and for consumers. And let me tell you, this was no easy task for the authors of this bill; I commend them for their legislative ability. No one is 100 percent happy with the final product, but I am confident that the benefits we will realize in enacting this bill in the way of job creation and technological progress are real. We can all be proud of the job done by the authors of this legislation.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island. Those of us who have worked with the distinguished chairman and ranking member on this bill wish to acknowledge the great credit for their leadership, and for our distinguished majority leader and the minority leader for their backup assistance.

CLOTURE VOTE POSTPONED ON THE FARM BILL

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, if I could have the attention of my colleagues, I ask that the cloture vote be postponed.

Let me indicate what we believe is in progress. We have been working for the last 2 or 3 hours with a number of Members on each side of the aisle and with Chairman LUGAR and the ranking member, Senator LEAHY, on the Senate

Agriculture Committee. I am not certain if there is an agreement yet, but we may be close to an agreement. We think it would save a considerable amount of time if we could suspend it temporarily. I understand the Democrats have a conference at 5:30.

Mr. DASCHLE. Assuming we have an agreement to talk about, but I was told that we were close to an agreement. I felt it was important that we set a time, if it were possible to do that, and then immediately go back to the floor and continue our work.

Mr. DOLE. I know a number of Members have other engagements. I will be in a position, maybe by 6 o'clock, to indicate whether we have an agreement or do not have an agreement. If we do not have an agreement, we will vote on cloture. If we do have an agreement, we will try to get a time agreement and consider all amendments—en bloc?

Mr. DASCHLE. Hopefully.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request to set aside the cloture vote and to come back at 6 o'clock on this issue? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I can tell Members now that there will not be any votes for a while. We will try to give an announcement at 6 o'clock. We hope we can have a short time agreement. If there is an agreement overall on the agriculture bill, we would not be here too late this evening. If not, we would have to come back tomorrow or sometime next week.

So I say to my colleagues that we will let you know as soon as we have any information. And I appreciate your cooperation.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Let me commend the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, and in particular our minority ranking member, the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] for the remarkable job he has done in bringing us to the point we achieved today. Were it not for his contribution and leadership and incredible determination over the last several months, we would simply not have achieved what we achieved this afternoon. Senator HOLLINGS deserves commendation on both sides of the aisle. I publicly want to again thank him for the effort that he put forth, for the remarkable teamwork that he demonstrated in allowing us the opportunity to at long last achieve what we have all hoped we could achieve.

So I commend Senator HOLLINGS and others who were involved, certainly the Senator from South Dakota, and I am very pleased with the result this afternoon.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF RONALD REAGAN'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand a resolution I am about to offer

has been cleared on each side. I send it to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 220) in recognition of Ronald Reagan's 85th birthday.

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. DOLE. Mr. President, 16 years ago, America was flat on her back. Our economy was a disaster. The only things up were inflation, interest rates, and unemployment—all in or near double digits. Abroad, our resolve was questioned by our allies and doubted by our adversaries.

Many so-called experts—including some in the Government—surveyed the situation, wrung their hands, shook their heads, and pronounced that the United States was in decline: That our best days were far behind us.

But one man knew better. And that man was Ronald Reagan.

Ronald Reagan knew that power belonged with the people, not with the Government. He knew that the best solutions to our problems came not from bureaucrats on the Potomac, but from men and women on the Mississippi, the Colorado, and the Columbia.

Ronald Reagan knew that economic recovery could be achieved not through regulations and redtape, but by allowing the magic of the marketplace to work its wonders.

Ronald Reagan knew that America was right far more often than she was wrong.

Ronald Reagan knew that military strength was not the means to war, but the key to peace.

Ronald Reagan knew that world respect came not from appeasement, but from standing by your friends, by speaking up for freedom, and by drawing the line against dictators.

Ronald Reagan knew that America was still a shining city on a hill, and that our Nation's best days were truly yet to come.

It was this vision that Ronald Reagan presented in 1980 and 1984.

It was this vision that the voters approved in overwhelming margins.

It was this vision that brought hope and opportunity to millions.

It was this vision that revitalized America, and changed the world.

Mr. President, next Tuesday is Ronald Reagan's 85th birthday. And the resolution we pass today will extend to President Reagan the greetings and best wishes of the U.S. Senate.

And I know I speak for all Members of the Senate, when I say that our thoughts and prayers are with the President and Nancy.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise tonight to wish Ronald Reagan, one of this country's, indeed, one of the world's, great leaders, a happy 85th birthday. The "Gipper" and his family—and friends joining across the

world—will celebrate his birthday on Saturday.

As a Senator in my first term, when President Reagan came to Washington, I found his vision, forthrightness and high principles, to be measures by which all elected officials can aspire. Ronald Reagan's faith in God and his tremendous belief in the common sense of the American people, were sources of great strength and wisdom. His courage and willingness to stand up for what he believed in were admired by friend and foe alike.

I am proud to say that I consider Ronald Reagan not just a friend, but a teacher and mentor to me and many other Senators back in our early Senate career.

I fondly recall our times together, especially while we were riding horses over my Atoka farm. Our conversations varied from personal stories to serious discussions about the threat of the former Soviet Empire and America's place in the world as a protector of freedom and Democracy. His humor paralleled that of Will Rogers.

Mr. President, I am very proud of the fact that next year, in my home State, the Newport News Shipyard will lay the keel of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*. I wish to join with my good friend from Idaho, Senator KEMPTHORNE, for together we sponsored the legislation that designated the ship with President Reagan's name. It is a rightful designation for his contribution to the demise of the Soviet Union.

I am also pleased that the Reagan Presidency will be honored just a few blocks from the Capitol. The Federal Triangle project under construction at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, will be designated as the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, thanks to legislation introduced by Majority Leader ROBERT DOLE. I am proud to have been a co-sponsor of this legislation, which has been passed by the Congress and signed into law by the President.

I would like to close my remarks, Mr. President, by paying tribute to Nancy Reagan, a truly magnificent First Lady. In the White House and since President Reagan left office, Nancy Reagan has been a strong voice on significant public issues. Americans everywhere owe her a debt of gratitude for the outstanding work she has done and continues to do to educate the children and youth of this Nation, particularly about the tragedy of drug abuse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 220) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution and its preamble are as follows:

S. RES. 220

Whereas, February 6, 1996 is the 85th Birthday of Ronald Wilson Reagan;

And Whereas, Ronald Reagan was twice elected by overwhelming margins as President of the United States;

And Whereas, Ronald Reagan is loved and admired by millions of Americans, and by countless others around the world;

And Whereas, Ronald Reagan, with the leadership of his wife, Nancy, led a national crusade against illegal drugs;

And Whereas, Ronald Reagan's eloquence united Americans in times of triumph and tragedy;

And Whereas, the thoughts and prayers of the Senate and the country are with Ronald Reagan in his courageous battle with Alzheimer's Disease; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the United States extends its birthday greetings and best wishes to Ronald Reagan.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Ronald Reagan.

Mr. DASCHLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE D.C. APPROPRIATIONS
CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, it is with some sadness that I come to the floor this evening. Those of us who have been on the District of Columbia conference committee have now worked some 90 days in trying to get a conference agreement. We have had a very difficult time. We have at times reached an agreement and then had those agreements disappear.

This Congress has placed itself in a special relationship with the District of Columbia by recognizing the incredible problems it has, both with its financing as well with education. We have taken the responsibility of doing what we can to make this city proud and to give it the wherewithal in order to improve its educational system.

I think we have a conference report that certainly, although it is not perfect—and that is obvious from the situation we find ourselves in—is nevertheless one which could bring about a resolution of the problems involved with the educational system. It could also, in a noncontroversial manner, provide the economic wherewithal for the District to be able to move forward.

This is an appropriations bill that includes nearly \$5 billion in spending authority for the city of Washington. We were held up by disagreement over a provision of \$5 million for a scholarship program, that represents one-tenth of 1 percent of the money involved with this bill. Yet, it does reach such an emotional state with respect to those people who feel one way or the other about the utilization of Federal funds for scholarships to allow young people to go and seek another school in order to, hopefully, advance their education. However, this disagreement over the scholarship program is such a matter.

I had hoped very much, and had expected, that we would be able to take

up the D.C. appropriations conference report today. The House passed it yesterday. They did so with a fairly good vote. But I find now, after having verified with my counterpart on the other side of the aisle, what would happen in the event that I attempted to bring up the conference report this evening. There would be no time agreement at all, there would be a filibuster, and there would not be any desire to move that conference agreement, in its present state out of this body.

I wish that we would stop damaging the District of Columbia's efforts to revitalize itself. And keeping in mind that by grabbing control as we have—and I do not disagree with that—over the power to do things, we have taken the responsibility, and I am only thinking of the kids. I have spent many, many hours of my own time in this city by going around from school to school.

I spend every Tuesday reading to a young man in the third grade whom I have seen change and he has become so much more able to participate in class in a meaningful way through knowing English. He is a student to whom English is a second language, I am incredibly impressed with his progress. We have 200 Senate staff members who are going every Tuesday and reading to kids. This program is going on. We are trying to do the best we can. But there is a lot that cannot be done without the ability to reorganize what is going on in the school system.

So I just stand before you very, very discouraged at all the effort that we have put forth to try to bring about a resolution which this body could consider, and hopefully adopt, to now find that that cannot be considered. So I will continue to do all I can to find the answers. I know that they will not be easy. But I also will do everything in my power to assure that we can proceed as best we can under the circumstances. I will work to pass the conference report at some later date, but if that cannot be done, I will do my best to work within the structure we have created with the Control Board and others to see what we can do while we wait for this legislation to pass.

I know the school board in Washington, DC, met today and had some concerns. Before I learned those concerns, I had initiated a call and a meeting with the chairwoman of the school board for tomorrow. I will be meeting with her tomorrow and we will look toward the future.

I am hopeful still that we will find this matter, which is of great national concern, should not be used to deprive those who want to help the schools to move forward. We are nearly halfway through the school year now, much needs to be done, and I hope both sides of this issue will calm down and let us proceed in some manner so that we can help the children of this city.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The clerk will call the roll.