

from all corners of the world. Our evergreen boughs reach beyond the earth to space itself. It has taken many different people and many different kinds of people to make the United States what it is today.

Like a tree, America had to start from a seed—this seed being the natives, the Indians. It is believed that the Indians migrated from northeastern Asia, thousands of years ago, when there was a land bridge that linked North America to Asia. As we know, after the voyage of Christopher Columbus, Europeans started to immigrate to North America. This was the birth of our nation.

Like a tree, America started with a seed, was born, then it started to grow its roots—immigration. These immigrants have come and made the nation strong with their many strengths. Immigrants to the United States are people who have left their homeland for many reasons: war, social upheaval, economic calamities, political and religious persecution, but the greatest reason for people to come to America has been the desire to find greater opportunities. The United States has been known for a nation of immigrants. Since its birth it has taken in more than 55 million people, from every corner of the world. These people are welcomed and many have made enormous contributions to the culture and to the economy of the United States.

Like a tree, America has become a mighty nation with its roots grown from immigrants. Roots, anchor a tree in the ground, holding it firmly in place, so, that it doesn't blow over when storm winds blow. The roots of America, like a tree, has thousands of different people branching from it, spreading out in every direction. It is the roots of a tree that have more growth than its trunk or leaves, and, this we see here in America. Immigration has fed our country and made it what it is today—A Mighty Nation.

THE LONG JOURNEY TO AMERICA

(By Crystal Kohistani)

My story begins in 1983 when I was born. I was my parents' first child. Both my parents were born and raised in Afghanistan, where I also was born. The religion in Afghanistan is Islam. The language is Farsi.

I was one year old and my brother, who was also born in Afghanistan, was eleven months old, when a war broke out between the Russian and Afghan communists against Muslim Afghans. The Russian communists wanted to overpower the Afghan country. Many people died. Innocent people. They bombed homes and shot people who would not side with them. One of those people was my grandfather. He was a highly respected, wealthy man. The communists wanted him to side with them, but when he refused they shot him to death. They thought since he was a leader to people, that the people would do whatever he did. When my parents heard of this they became scared and decided to leave the country. We started our Journey in 1984. My father had to leave a day earlier than us. He got on a bus that would transfer workers from and to the University of Afghanistan. My father was good friends with the driver so he agreed to drive him one hour out of town to a village. The next day a jeep came for us at 12:00 A.M. We had to leave at dark so no one would see us leaving. The communists would not let anyone leave the country. If you were caught, they either arrested you or shot you. We had sold our belongings and took our clothing and some food with us. The jeep took us to the village and we met with my father. From there, four armed men with horses and donkeys met us. We had to pay these men for the donkeys and horses. We also had to pay ten thousand dollars for each one of us to be transferred.

These men were to take us to Pakistan. They took us from village to village. My mother held me on her horse and my father held my brother on foot. We had some family with us so there wasn't enough horses or donkeys for my father. Then early in the morning we reached another home. This home contained many people; a tiny room for two people were given to us. We had about ten people with us. We spent the night there. The next day we all got sick. Luckily my mother had medication with her. Then we set out again. We came to a bombed out house and spent another night there. We were all wet from the rain storm that had hit. We were so tired and hungry. Most of the places we stayed in were very dirty and smelly. They had rats, lizards and bugs. We had to sleep on the bare floor. We changed our clothes and got our rest. Later we headed towards a desert with little food and water. We saw many snakes. When we came out of the desert we were greeted by a wet and muddy path. Because of this we had to pass through the mountains. On the way a man tried to kidnap by brother from my mother, but when they saw the armed men they ran away. After the mountains we reached a dangerous valley, where many had died. After seven days we had reached the border of Pakistan. The officers at the border asked us some questions and then let us through. We thanked the men that helped us. The men returned to Afghanistan, perhaps to help another family. We got in touch with our relatives in Pakistan. They came, picked us up from the border and helped us look for a house. We lived in Pakistan for two years. After two years, my uncle, who lived in Minnesota sponsored us. We went from Pakistan, to Japan, to California, to Colorado, and finally to Minneapolis, Minnesota. I was three and half years old when I came here. I did not know any English. I am thirteen years old today. I am glad that I am here today, safe with my family. It was very hard for me to have two cultures. It confused me. But now I have learned to maintain two cultures. Some day I do hope I can go back to my country to visit. Although America will always be my country, for I was raised here. Right now there is war in Afghanistan still, but this time it's with the Taliban. They are taking the religion Islam too far. They make it seem like a horrible religion, but it's not. What the Taliban are requiring of the religion is not what the Holy Quran is requiring. I am glad I am here today to tell the story of my dangerous migration. So that my grand children and so on can tell the story of their ancestor's migration. And some day I hope that the world can live in peace.

WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Joseph Opromollo)

Red, yellow, olive,
Black, brown, white.
Splashes of color from God's own brush.
Splashes of color upon
Blue, green, brown,
Grey, red, beige.
Splashes of color which form an
Endless rainbow,
Which bleed together and blend into one.

The above symbolizes the diversity that is found in the United States of America. I am glad that the United States is a nation of immigrants. God has created all different nationalities of people to live on this world. For what reasons? For war? To fight each other because of our differences? No. I believe it was to live together in harmony and peace. This is why America is considered a melting pot.

In school I have learned many interesting facts about America's past. Although life

was often hard for the immigrants, their fight for freedom allowed all to live peacefully together. I know if my great-grandparents did not dream of the freedom they would find in the U.S. and had not immigrated, I would not be here today.

Where else in the world can you find friends of every race, color and nationality? Like the colors of nature, the colors found in America add variety to our lives. Like the colors of an artist's palette, they can exist side by side and can also blend to form new colors. I am proud to live in America.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the modified committee amendment to S. 1173, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act:

Senators Trent Lott, John H. Chafee, Paul Coverdell, Christopher Bond, Jesse Helms, Michael B. Enzi, John Ashcroft, Don Nickles, Craig Thomas, Mike DeWine, Richard Lugar, Pat Roberts, Ted Stevens, Wayne Allard, Dirk Kempthorne, and Larry Craig.

CALL OF THE ROLL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the quorum call has been waived.

VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the modified committee amendment to S. 1173, a bill to authorize funds for the construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are required. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Abraham	Enzi	Kyl
Allard	Faircloth	Lott
Ashcroft	Frist	Lugar
Bennett	Gorton	McConnell
Bond	Gramm	Murkowski
Brownback	Grams	Nickles
Burns	Grassley	Roberts
Campbell	Gregg	Roth
Chafee	Hagel	Sessions
Coats	Hatch	Shelby
Cochran	Helms	Smith (NH)
Coverdell	Hutchinson	Smith (OR)
Craig	Hutchison	Stevens
D'Amato	Inhofe	Thomas
DeWine	Jeffords	Thurmond
Domenici	Kempthorne	Warner

NAYS—52

Akaka	Daschle	Johnson
Baucus	Dodd	Kennedy
Biden	Dorgan	Kerrey
Bingaman	Durbin	Kerry
Boxer	Feingold	Kohl
Breaux	Feinstein	Landrieu
Bryan	Ford	Lautenberg
Bumpers	Glenn	Leahy
Byrd	Graham	Levin
Cleland	Harkin	Lieberman
Collins	Hollings	Mack
Conrad	Inouye	McCain

Mikulski	Robb	Thompson
Moseley-Braun	Rockefeller	Torricelli
Moynihan	Santorum	Wellstone
Murray	Sarbanes	Wyden
Reed	Snowe	
Reid	Specter	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 52. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of House Joint Resolution 97 with the joint resolution to be considered read for the third time.

The question is now on the passage of House Joint Resolution 97.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution. On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Abraham	Feingold	Lugar
Akaka	Feinstein	Mack
Allard	Ford	McCain
Ashcroft	Frist	McConnell
Baucus	Glenn	Mikulski
Bennett	Gorton	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Graham	Moynihan
Bingaman	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Murray
Boxer	Grassley	Nickles
Breaux	Gregg	Reed
Brownback	Hagel	Reid
Bryan	Harkin	Robb
Bumpers	Hatch	Roberts
Burns	Helms	Rockefeller
Byrd	Hollings	Roth
Campbell	Hutchinson	Santorum
Chafee	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Cleland	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Inouye	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kempthorne	Snowe
Coverdell	Kennedy	Specter
Craig	Kerrey	Stevens
D'Amato	Kerry	Thomas
Daschle	Kohl	Thompson
DeWine	Kyl	Thurmond
Dodd	Landrieu	Torricelli
Domenici	Lautenberg	Warner
Dorgan	Leahy	Wellstone
Durbin	Levin	Wyden
Enzi	Lieberman	
Faircloth	Lott	

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 97) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition? The majority leader.

THE SENATE SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, under the

provisions of rule XXII, the second cloture vote will occur immediately, unless changed by unanimous consent. We had the first cloture vote, which was not agreed to. Then we had the vote on the continuing resolution. I am glad we got that done now.

My intent had been to have the second cloture vote later on in the day to give Members time to assess where we were on the ISTEA, and see if they would like to have an ISTEA bill and see if there is a way to sort of get things that are wrapped around the axle moved in such a way that we could go forward with this very important transportation infrastructure bill. But I understand our Democratic colleagues will not grant consent for the cloture vote to occur at 3 o'clock today. They want the cloture vote right now. I don't think that is wise. I think we need 3 hours here to sort of assess where we are, have some discussions, and then have a vote.

So, with that in mind, I will shortly move to recess the Senate, then, until 3 o'clock today. Therefore, Senators can expect the next vote to occur at 3 p.m., on the second cloture motion with regard to the ISTEA highway infrastructure extension bill, and hopefully we will have some greater success there.

If we don't get cloture—and I had hoped we would on the second cloture vote—we have a cloture motion filed and we will have another cloture vote on Friday. I know some Senators have things they need to do. I know there will be some Senators absent and therefore it would be even more difficult to get the cloture vote to pass on Friday.

If we don't get cloture then, as majority leader I have to make a call, after consultation with Members on both sides of this very important ISTEA transportation bill, as to whether we just pull it down and then next week try to move to other issues. We may have to have debate and votes on the Federal Reserve nominees. We have two Federal Reserve nominees that there is a hold on. It would be my intent to call those up because I don't think we ought to delay Federal Reserve nominees for any of our maneuverings around here. That could possibly be done on Monday.

We also have a judge on the calendar that we have cleared, except a vote is going to be required. So we probably would have that vote on Monday at 5 o'clock. And again, I am not locking all these in. I am just trying to advise Members where we are.

Then we could very well move to a variety of bills that are pending—they are very serious—that we would like to get done before we adjourn for the end of the year. That would include, of course, Amtrak reform, which we need very badly. A lot of good work has been done on it. We have, of course, a threatened Amtrak strike that we may have to act on. We have the juvenile justice bill. We have the adoption and

foster care bill. I thought we had bipartisan agreement on that, but there seem to be some problems with it. But we will begin to look at bringing up other bills. Also, then, next week we hope to begin the fast-track legislation, with the intent of completing action one way or the other on fast track early the first week in November.

So that is kind of where it is. I think my inclination now is, if we don't get cloture this afternoon and we don't get cloture tomorrow, then we would have to just say, well, campaign finance reform took down the very important ISTEA infrastructure bill. That is kind of where we are, and I am prepared now to move that the Senate stand in recess until 3 p.m. today.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. LOTT. I will yield to the Senator for a question.

Mr. DORGAN. The Senator mentioned fast track. I would not expect us to have fast consideration of fast track. I would expect that piece of legislation would take some significant time. But that wasn't the reason I asked the Senator to yield.

There clearly is a wrench in the crankcase here and we are not moving. I suspect the Senator from Mississippi, the majority leader, feels the wrench is he's not able to get cloture on the highway bill and others feel that the wrench is that we are not able to get a vote on the McCain-Feingold legislation. I wonder whether we wouldn't, in the coming days, be able to accomplish both purposes. Are there circumstances under which we might be able to expect that we can proceed on the highway bill and proceed to find a way to have a vote in some fashion on the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill?

Mr. LOTT. We have already had votes on the McCain-Feingold issue. It may not have been the way that some Senators would have liked to have had it, but we have had votes on it. There is not a consensus on what to do on campaign finance reform at this time that could get the approval of the Senate, which requires 60 votes. I mean, that is what the Senator from North Dakota has indicated he is going to force on the fast track. He's probably going to have a filibuster and we'll have to get 60 votes on cloture to move on fast track. He may be successful in blocking fast track, which the President is very anxious to get and, in a meeting earlier this week, requested that I schedule it before we go out, and I want to do that. But he understands full well what the rules of the Senate are, and he's going to take full advantage of them, and that's his right.

So, the same is applicable here. There is no consensus yet on how we can come together on campaign finance reform. This issue will come up again. I don't think it makes good sense for it to come up again this year. It will come up again in the future. I assume it will come up in a very different form in the future. Maybe not.