

demand that we move forward. I do not think there is any doubt about it.

I urge my friend from Minnesota to let the Senate move forward on this day, this very important day, before we have to start calling people back here and going into quorum calls and that kind of thing. This is, if I may say in all due respect to my friend from Minnesota, not appropriate on this day. I urge my friend from Minnesota allow the Senate to move forward, again, re-emphasizing my commitment to him that we will move forward in a bipartisan fashion on this compelling issue.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Could I ask my colleague from Arizona—I do not think it puts him on the spot—I have no question about his commitment or the commitment of any number of other Senators. I find it puzzling that the only thing I asked for today—because I do have a real fear this is just going to get put off and we are not going to take action—the only thing I asked for, and maybe my colleague did not hear this, was a commitment from the leadership to do everything possible. I used that word, and I started with 100 days, within 4 months, and get a bill on the floor. That is all I ask for.

I think it would be very important to get that kind of a leadership commitment.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I had suggested the absence of quorum. I think we need to have the opportunity—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the majority leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I join the distinguished Democratic leader in suggesting the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I have listened to my three colleagues, and having been sworn in today I understand their point about the occasion. So what I want to do, in the spirit of the special day today, I withdraw my objection, but I want to go on record, I am going on record today that I am going to have the same amendment dealing with our recess in February if we do not get to work on this. We should not be taking a recess in February if we are not going to take up this piece of legislation of reform as soon as possible, that we are dragging it out, and I can see what is going to happen.

So today I will not object, but I will come out with a similar initiative, I say to my colleague from Arizona, and maybe we should be working today and saying we should not be in recess in February.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me thank the distinguished Senator from

Minnesota for his cooperation this afternoon. He feels very, very strongly about this issue and has confirmed that again in a colloquy over the last half hour. I appreciate very much his resolve and intend to work with him very carefully and closely to see that we expeditiously consider this very important legislation.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, did the Chair rule that the unanimous-consent request was approved?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The unanimous-consent request has been approved.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 3

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, January 9, 1997, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader or his designee, in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, or until such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until 12:00 noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution; and that when the House adjourns on Thursday, January 9, 1997, it stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 20, 1997; that when the House adjourns on Monday, January 20, 1997, it stand adjourned until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 21, 1997; and that when the House adjourns on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 1997, or until 12:00 noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution.*

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and the House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

#### COMMENDING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD FOR HIS YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk commending Senator ROBERT C. BYRD for his years of public service, that the clerk read the resolution, that upon its reading, it be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

S. RES. 7

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd has dutifully and faithfully served the people of West Virginia since January 8, 1947;

Whereas, for 50 years, he had dedicated himself to improving the lives and welfare of the people of West Virginia and the United States,

Whereas, his 50-year commitment to public service has been one of total dedication to serving the people of his beloved state and to the highest ideals of public service,

Whereas, he has held more legislative offices than anyone else in the history of his state, and is the longest serving Senator in the history of his state: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the U.S. Senate congratulates the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, the senior Senator from West Virginia, for his 50 years of public service to the people of West Virginia and to the United States of America.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Senator Robert C. Byrd.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 7) was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to heartily endorse this resolution. I thank the people of West Virginia for electing Senator ROBERT C. BYRD to these many offices, both in West Virginia and here in the U.S. Senate. He is truly a monumental Senator in terms of importance and perspective in the history of the Senate. I sat here in my chair a month ago and listened to Senator BYRD speak to the new Senators about this institution, about its history and the importance of it and the significance that it has played in the role of this country. It was extremely interesting and, also, in some respects, intimidating because he made us aware of what an awesome responsibility we have here in the U.S. Senate. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

I appreciate his friendship. I have found that he is one that you can go to for counsel and for advice. Even sometimes when he does not agree with what you are trying to do, he will give you a straight answer as to what you could do under the rules. He has a lighter side you don't always see here, but we know he has been seen playing a little fiddle and talking about Billy Byrd, his dog. He is quite a Senator. We appreciate so much his contribution to this institution. I am delighted that we are doing this resolution recognizing his 50 years of outstanding service to West Virginia and the United States.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, tomorrow marks the momentous day in the life and career of one of this Chamber's most esteemed and respected Members. Fifty years ago, on January 8, 1947, ROBERT C. BYRD took his seat in the West Virginia State Legislature, thus beginning a remarkable half century of public service. I have quite an extensive statement that I wish to make following the completion of our resolution and consideration. I must again congratulate our distinguished Senator for a remarkable career. We saw another demonstration of his intellect and his institutional memory and the remarkable contribution he makes to that just this afternoon as he talked about the early days of this Senate and how the President pro tempore was selected and the length of time it took and the degree to which we followed procedure in ensuring that we notify both the President and the House of Representatives in proper order. It was a small yet very significant contribution to our dialog this morning and,

again, a reminder of what an invaluable and remarkable Senator ROBERT C. BYRD is.

I will have much more to say after we complete our work. I commend him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 7) was agreed to.

(Mr. KYL assumed the chair.)

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am very, very proud to be a part of this resolution and to thank Senator ROBERT C. BYRD on behalf of the people of West Virginia certainly, but also, frankly, the people of the United States and the whole process of order, which is the way we govern ourselves. I think extraordinary in history, he is the third Senator to be elected to seven 6-year terms—a remarkable accomplishment.

The Almanac of American Politics says that ROBERT C. BYRD is the kind of Senator that the Founding Fathers had in mind when they, in fact, wrote the Constitution about the way the Senate ought to be. That should not come as a surprise to any of us who know him well.

We have heard so many times the fact of his being a truly self-made person, something which his junior colleague could not claim in quite the same fashion. But we know that he is the son of a coal miner, and we know about the law degree while he was in the House of Representatives. What we have to keep emphasizing, though, is what he means not just to the State, not just to the country, but to this institution, because more than any other person that I have read about in history, or know about, he is the conscience of the Senate. When we have a lack of civility, when we lose our sense of bipartisanship, when there is anger on the floor of the Senate, when the process breaks down, he grieves. He grieves not on behalf of himself, but on behalf of this thing called "governance," which is pretty fundamental for the future of our country. I think he worries about that. I know that he places the U.S. Senate as a particularly responsible body for what is going to happen to our future and how it will happen. Will it be done in a way that is bipartisan and civil—the business of civility in this greatest deliberative body in the world?

I will more or less conclude on this. I really think of him in moral terms. From time to time, when I give speeches, I like to refer to when you are really doing your best work, you are following an inner moral compass. I think that I started talking about that after watching Senator BYRD, not only when I was Governor of West Virginia and before, but also here in the U.S. Senate. He really operates out of a moral compass. He does what he thinks is right. He has a very strict sense of the discipline of what ought to happen in this body. Sometimes he lectures us on that, and sometimes people are briefly impatient with that, but they always

stand back because they know he is right. They know he is right. They know he speaks for the U.S. Senate, which he reveres so much.

Let me close by saying that on this coming Saturday there is going to be a statue inside the West Virginia Capitol, which is not really much smaller than the one we stand in at the present moment. It is a statue of Senator BYRD. There is no other statue of any other political person in the West Virginia State Capitol. There will be a lot of people there, and for good reason—because the relationship and the chemistry between Senator BYRD and the people of West Virginia is something that is profoundly moving and important and refreshing, frankly.

We honor him for serving for 50 years, which means he has been out amongst the people all this time. He has never changed. The people of West Virginia have really never changed. He is a man of values speaking to a people of values. It is interesting. As he begins to talk, you see people fall silent. They realize they don't want to miss what Senator BYRD might be saying because they know it is not going to be trivial or political, and it is going to be important. It is going to have to do with fundamental values and the fundamental nature of the way this country ought to be and the way the State of West Virginia ought to be.

So I look forward to being with him this coming Saturday. I join with the distinguished majority leader, the Democratic leader, and the distinguished Senator from Nevada in praising and being grateful to my senior colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the two leaders allowing me to speak. I can say that it has been somewhat of an inconvenience for me to wait until the business of the body has been completed before we got to this matter. But the inconvenience to this Senator is so minor compared to the service that has been rendered in this body to the people of West Virginia, and to this country, by the Senator from West Virginia, that it is hardly worth talking about.

I am happy to be here to talk about somebody for whom I have great feelings. I have served in public office since 1964. My first public office was 33 years ago. During that period of time I have had the good fortune to serve with great men and women, but I can honestly say I have never served with the likes of Senator ROBERT C. BYRD.

As far as this Senator is concerned, he is a unique individual. I hope some day that Senator BYRD will complete what I understand he is working on, and that is the story about his life. I know a little bit about the life of Senator BYRD. I am an avid history fan, and every bit and piece I can find, and have found, about Senator BYRD I have tried to comprehend and understand.

With someone of this magnitude, we sometimes wonder how he arrived at

the point where he has such accolades pushed in his direction every day.

I know that his first election was an interesting election, one where, seated often, as I understand, in the West Virginia State legislature were many, many people who were running for that office. Senator BYRD, being the person that he is, decided he needed to be a little bit different, to kind of stand out in the crowd, to be elected. So he decided that he would be different from the rest. The people would give long speeches telling why they should be elected to the State legislature. Senator BYRD would get their attention by playing a tune on his fiddle and singing a song. Senator BYRD was elected.

Early in his career he decided to run for the West Virginia State Senate. But, as happens in a lot of States, there are kingmakers saying, "You run for this, you don't run for this, this isn't the appropriate time to run." Someone who was a national figure thought that there would be other people who would be better qualified to serve in the West Virginia State Legislature. The great John L. Lewis, president of the Mine Workers, got word to Senator BYRD that he should not run. Of course, we all know now Senator BYRD, and that was the wrong thing to say to this man from the hills of West Virginia. He took on the leader of the Mine Workers, someone that literally brought the country to a standstill. But this man could not bring ROBERT BYRD to a standstill. He ran and was elected.

Everyone knew that this man was close to the miners—may not have been close to labor, but he was close to the miners. And he was elected.

Well, his career is outstanding. I can truly say that one of the most pleasant moments of my life was when I came to the Senate some 10 years ago and was notified that I could be on the Appropriations Committee. That, to me, was so memorable that I will never forget it. I have done my best to serve on the Appropriations Committee in a manner that I think is good for the State of Nevada, and hopefully good for the country. One person I look to as an example in that committee has been the person who was chairman, and is now ranking member of that committee, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD.

I learned early on that the man carried in his pocket, as I now do, a copy of the United States Constitution. He carries that Constitution with him, not because he probably couldn't recite to the Presiding Officer, and to this Senator, every word in the Constitution from memory, if he chose to do so. But I think the reason he carries it there, next to his heart, is because he believes the Constitution is as important as any document in this country.

We all know the rules that guide this body, and the person that knows them better than anyone else in this body—and probably knows them better than anyone else in the history of this

body—is the Senator from West Virginia, who we are honoring today with this resolution.

Mr. President, I had the good fortune to be a member of a delegation that met in West Virginia with British Parliamentarians. We had the ministers from Great Britain. We had other leaders. We met in West Virginia. After having been there, I understand some of the songs that come out of West Virginia, such as, "The West Virginia hills where I was born, and all is beautiful there."

What I am about to tell the Senate, and even though I was there, I find hard to believe. We had some entertainment, some music—blue-grass music. It was exciting. They asked Senator BYRD, "Tell us a song you would like to hear." And he said, "There are more pretty girls than one." They played that song. It was a great song. I have heard it many times since.

Then he handed out notebooks to the Members of the Senate and to the Parliamentarians. From memory, without a note, he proceeded to recite the reign of the British monarchs, the date they served office, their names, and what they did. That took about 40 minutes or so for him to do, or maybe an hour. The British Parliamentarians were flabbergasted. They had never heard anything like this in their lives. But, as happens in this body, there are many times that we hear things that we have not heard any time in our lives, except from the Senator from West Virginia.

I could tell you about the remarks he made on the Senate floor about the Roman Empire, about which a course at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas is now being taught, using the text of his lectures here on the Senate floor.

Mr. President, the people of West Virginia should know that whether he was leading the debate on the Panama Canal treaty, or other international or domestic matters, that his No. 1 priority has always been the people of West Virginia. It has been a great example for all of us: to be involved in international and national affairs, but to never lose sight of the fact that you are elected by the people from your State and that the people in your State should have first priority. That is the most important lesson I have learned from the Senator from West Virginia.

I express to the Senator, through the Presiding Officer, my affection, my admiration, and my respect, and I hope that, in some manner, my public service to the people of the State of Nevada will be as well-served as the Senator from West Virginia has served the people of West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Plato thanked the gods for having been born a man, and he thanked them for the good fortune of having been born a

Greek. He thanked them for having permitted him to live in the age of Sophocles.

Mr. President, I am very thankful for many things. I am thankful for the respect of my colleagues. My colleagues upon more than one occasion—undoubtedly many of them—have been angered by things that I have said. I am sure they have been frustrated with me from time to time over the many years. But they have always been forgiving, understanding, and most considerate. And I thank them. I thank, of course, the Supreme Governor of the World for having let me live to serve for 50 years the people of West Virginia.

The psalmist tells us, "the days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." I thank God for his mercy and his kindness and his love, for having let me live to serve the people of West Virginia 50 years.

I thank the people of West Virginia for having demonstrated the faith and confidence in me to reelect me these many times over a period of a half century.

Queen Mary I of England lost the port of Calais to the French. Mary served from 1553 to 1558. She said, "When I am dead and opened, you will find 'Calais' written on my heart." I say to the people of West Virginia, "West Virginia" will always be indelibly engraved with blood upon my heart until it returns to the dust.

I must thank a very understanding and forgiving and considerate woman—my wife Erma—who has served with me these 50 years. I think that our spouses sacrifice beyond what people generally know when we serve in this body. Come next May 29, we will have been married 60 years. I had to have a forgiving and understanding and cooperative wife who was as dedicated to the people of West Virginia as I, to have done it.

Finally, Mr. President, let me thank my staff. I have always been blessed with a good staff. I was once told by the chief chaplain of General Patch's army in World War II that a true mark of genius is to be able to surround oneself with able, committed people. I have had that kind of staff over these many years, a staff that likewise has overlooked my foibles, idiosyncrasies, and has been cooperative and kind and has helped me when I had to walk through the valley of despair—at my grandson's death. They, too, have served the people of West Virginia and the people of the Nation.

I apologize to the leaders for imposing on their valuable time. I know how it works. They have other things to do, other demands are made upon them and other business is there to take care of, other errands to run, and other services to perform, but always there is some straggling Senator who comes to the floor who wants to take some time and talk. But I thank them, and I hope

that over the years, whatever disappointments I bring upon them, I can have the opportunity to make amends and to support them in the good work that they do.

And so I thank all today for the privilege and the honor that have been bestowed upon me by the Senators on both sides of the aisle. I have also been very fortunate in having had two good colleagues in these 38 years. I had Senator Randolph to begin with and now I have Senator ROCKEFELLER, who is a very fine colleague. I could not ask for a better colleague than either of them. Senator ROCKEFELLER has been especially supportive and deferential and kind to me. And so I have many things, Mr. President, for which to be grateful.

HARRY REID has impressed me in the years he has been in the Senate. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, many times I have asked him to chair subcommittee hearings when I could not be there to do so, and he has always done an excellent job.

He, too, is a Senate man. He is dedicated to the institution. I have had many conversations with him. I feel highly privileged to have him as my friend.

Tennyson said, "I am a part of all that I have met." How rich I am in that I am a part of HARRY REID and JAY ROCKEFELLER and TOM DASCHLE and TRENT LOTT.

I thank both leaders again for their consideration in giving me this time. I yield the floor.

#### GRANTING FLOOR PRIVILEGES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, did the Senator from South Dakota have a resolution he wanted to send to the desk concerning Senator CLELAND?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I do have a resolution, and I send it to desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 8) granting floor privileges.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 8) reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 8

*Resolved*, That an employee in the office of Senator Max Cleland, to be designated from time to time by Senator Cleland, shall have the privilege of the Senate floor during any period when Senator Cleland is in the Senate chamber during the 105th Congress.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe we have completed now the customary list of resolutions and unanimous-consent requests. I do have a statement that I would like to make on this opening day, and then I believe the Senator from South Dakota might have some additional remarks he would want to include in the RECORD with regard to