

There were a number of us—in fact, 70 Members of the Senate voted for the more extensive treatment and support for ethanol. Again, that came out in the conference and that is regrettable. But we will continue to fight this fight on behalf of ethanol. I have every expectation and confidence that we will be successful in the long run.

There are a lot of other provisions such as capital gains and estate tax provisions that I have not taken the time to discuss here today. I will not take the additional time to do so now. Instead, I just want to make it clear that I strongly supported the overall bill and the bipartisan approach that made it possible. It was that cooperation, that coming together, that building on our strength with the view and the interests of all the American people, that allowed us to have this victory today.

We did the right thing for America's children. We did the right thing for America's students, our families, and we are doing the right thing for the next generation of Americans. Achieving fiscal responsibility and social fairness simultaneously is something that many thought could not happen. We have done it with this legislation that we passed, and I think every Member of this body who voted for it has reason to be proud of the work of this Congress.

I yield the floor.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO DAN DUKES AND CELESTE EMBREY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize two young people who served on my staff through all the long hours and difficult days of the last year.

After I was elected majority leader, the next morning at 9 o'clock, I was in the majority leader's office, but I only had about a third or half of the staff that I needed. I had some interns from my State of Mississippi, some college students, who had been working with me just through the summer. I asked them to stay and help us, and they have been with me the last year.

They filled positions that are very vital. They did a great job.

Dan Dukes of Como, MS, has been like my alter ego. He has been with me throughout the day and, on occasions, when I had to go downtown, he has just done a fantastic job.

He has been my personal assistant, shepherding my appointments, finding my lost notebooks, and keeping up with my headlong dashes from meeting to meeting.

Dan has had the patience of a saint and the attention to detail of a seasoned Hill staffer. It is an understatement to say that I will miss him as he returns home to finish his studies at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN.

This is one of those occasions when we say goodbye to a young man with every expectation that we will be seeing him often—and hearing about him too. I have the same feeling about him as I once had about a youngster on my staff by the name of Chip Pickering, who now represents the Third District of our State.

I want to express to him publicly my appreciation for filling in the way he did and doing a great job.

I also want to recognize Celeste Embrey of Southaven, MS, who has been one of the two receptionists in my front office who answered the thousands of calls that have come in, some of them not always very complimentary. She has done it with just charm and grace. In fact, she does just a great job that the President of pro tempore, the Senator from South Carolina, comes by to check on her several times each week to make sure she is doing all right. She appreciates that, and I appreciate that.

Even my colleagues who do not know her by name know well her unfailing smile, her enthusiastic greeting, her ability to make everyone feel at home.

If you have enjoyed the atmosphere of true southern hospitality in my office, you have Celeste to thank. But you cannot fully appreciate what she has done for us until you overhear her conversations with callers—whether from Mississippi or around the country.

She has always dealt with their questions and handled their complaints with a concern and patience that go well beyond the call of duty.

Celeste is off to graduate school, and though there will soon be another person at her desk in my outer office, there will still be a void in our staff. I will have to get her new phone number so that any of us who miss the brightness of her welcome and the cheer of her voice can keep in close touch.

Dan and Celeste are the kind of young people who keep up our faith in the rising generation. I am proud of them. I hope they will always be proud to have been part of the Lott team.

I want to say to these two very fine young people, I really appreciate their work. I am proud of them, and I wish them Godspeed in whatever they do in the years to come.

NOMINATIONS TO REMAIN IN STATUS QUO

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that all nominations received by the Senate during the 105th Congress, first session, remain in status quo, notwithstanding the August-September adjournment of the Senate and the provi-

sions of rule XXXIII, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. President, I withdraw that unanimous consent request at this time and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO DAVE NAKDIMEN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Dave Nakdimen, an outstanding newsman, who retired after a wonderful career in television news.

Dave served the Louisville area for 36 years on WAVE television news.

Dave was born in London, KY, and became interested in journalism by listening to the radio at an early age. After years of listening to political news and election-night returns, Dave decided to study journalism at the University of Kentucky. After graduation in 1955, he took a job as a sports writer with the Lexington Leader. While working in Lexington, he met his future wife, Wanda, who was moving to Louisville to take a job at a local hospital. After they became engaged, they packed their bags and headed to Louisville, where Dave landed a job at WAVE-TV. The rest is history.

WAVE was his first job in broadcast media. Dave was assigned to cover city hall, and there he met and interviewed some of the most important men and women in the last half of this century. Dave covered the civil rights movement of the 1960's, where he interviewed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during an open-housing march. He also interviewed Ronald Reagan, George Bush, David Brinkley, John Wayne, and countless other memorable personalities.

Dave won't be resting during his retirement, though; he's returning to WAVE-TV after a brief vacation to produce weekly commentaries for the station's 6 o'clock newscasts. When asked by the Courier-Journal if he would repeat his experience in journalism, Mr. Nakdimen responded: "I think so. I really enjoyed it. It was a lot of hard work, but it was a lot of fun, too." Dave's colleagues also remember him fondly. Kathy Beck, the news director at WAVE-TV, said Dave is "a man of great integrity" throughout the news world.

All those who know Dave know that he gives his endeavors his all. He is a deacon at his church, and he shows intense faithfulness in supporting his beloved University of Kentucky Wildcat

basketball team. Dave's retirement means he will be able to do more of the things he loves, including spending time with his wife, Wanda, and his daughter, Suzanne.

Mr. President, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the career of Dave Nakdimen. It surely has been a memorable one.

Mr. President, in the world of television news it is extremely difficult to develop expertise in covering politics. Most of the political reporters that we deal with who are really talented in covering what the occupant of the Chair and myself do everyday tend to be in print journalism.

There is one real exception to that: Dave Nakdimen. Dave was the only expert political reporter I ever met in local television. He had a distinguished career. We will all miss him greatly. He is a man of great principle, a personal friend. I remember meeting him when I was in my twenties sitting in the office of a local official in Jefferson County, that is, Louisville, KY. He was doing his job then. He is a superb individual, a fine man with deep religious convictions who will be missed in the reporting of political news in my hometown.

Mr. President, I wish Dave Nakdimen well in his retirement years.

I ask unanimous consent that an article from *The Courier-Journal* be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, July 11, 1997]

WAVE'S NAKDIMEN IS RETIRING AFTER 3 DECADES

(By Tom Dorsey)

Today is the last day on the job for WAVE reporter Dave Nakdimen after 36 years.

"I plopped down here in 1961 and have been in the same spot ever since," said Nakdimen. The soft-spoken journalist with the dry sense of humor has been a fixture on the local TV scene.

"He's a wonderful guy and clever writer," said WAVE colleague Jackie Hays. "If I had a question on anything—but especially politics—I knew he'd know the answer."

Nakdimen, 64, probably holds the record for the most years as a TV reporter in Louisville.

He remembers covering political races in which candidates ran as segregationist. He recalls interviewing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during an open-housing march in the '60s.

After the interview Nakdimen discovered that the sound system wasn't working. "So when King came around the block again, we asked him if he'd do the interview over and he was nice enough to do it."

On another day Nakdimen was assigned to do one of those worst-intersection-in-town stories.

"As I was standing there shooting the film, an accident happened right in front of me that perfectly illustrated the traffic problem," Nakdimen said. "I ran back to the station knowing what a great story I had, opened the camera and found there was no film in it."

Most days went better than that for the man who was born in St. Charles, Va. He grew up in London, Ky., listening to elec-

tion-night returns and political conventions on radio.

That's what got him interested in the news. When he graduated from London High School, he went on to study journalism at the University of Kentucky, where he graduated in 1955.

His first job was writing sports for the Lexington Leader, the former afternoon newspaper. He almost connected with a job at *The Courier-Journal*. Along the way he became engaged to his future wife, Wanda. She was a nurse who was taking a job in Louisville, so he found one here too.

"WAVE (radio and TV) was looking for somebody to cover City Hall," he said. "I had never worked a day on radio or TV in my life, but I decided to take a shot at it."

The rest is history—36 years of it on the job and in the marriage.

The first two weeks on the job, he met David Brinkley and Ronald Reagan. "It was fun to talk with John Wayne, sit down with George Bush or chase Hubert Humphrey around," he said.

But there were other stories, too, many of them tragic. "I think the Standard Gravure (1989 shootings) stands out in my mind as the story I will never forget." The 1974 tornado that ravaged large parts of Louisville is a close second.

What's changed the most about TV news? "Oh, it's the technology without a doubt," Nakdimen said. When he began working at WAVE, stories were covered with a Polaroid camera. Film came along a few years later, but it was grainy black and white.

"Color followed, then small, live cameras and satellites and now digital television is on the way," Nakdimen said.

"There's so much production to a TV newscast today, especially with the emphasis on live coverage." It's a far cry from the news he saw as a boy in London.

Nakdimen Remembers NBC's John Cameron Swayze and CBS' Douglas Edwards doing 15-minute nightly newscasts in television's early days. "They just sat in front of a camera and read the news; it was pretty much radio on TV," he said.

In many ways the last 36 years has zipped by like a tape on fast-forward. But Nakdimen won't be leaving it all behind.

"I'll still be doing a once-a-week commentary for WAVE and some political and election analysis to keep my hand in," he said.

Would Nakdimen do those 36 years over again?

"I think so. I really enjoyed it. It was a lot of hard work, but it was a lot of fun too."

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 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. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I appreciate the cooperation of all Senators on both sides of the aisle, as we have cleared these lists. When we get through today, we hope to have cleared most of the Executive Calendar. We have some that are still being held for

matching nominations, some reservations on both sides. But when we get through here, I believe we will have cleared all that is on the calendar, except maybe those that have just been reported today and maybe just eight or nine others that we are still working on.

I appreciate, again, the support that we have had from Senators on both sides and from the Democratic leader.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 121 through 127, 133, 134, 166 through 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175 through 178, 179, 182 through 185, 201, 203, 204, 205 through 223, 225 through 232, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service.

I finally ask consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of George Munoz, to be president of OPIC. I understand that before the Senate confirms the above nominations, there are several Senators who may like to speak.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

I might note, Mr. President, we are still trying to clear some other nominations. There may be another opportunity before the night is over to clear some other nominations. Some of these nominations did not actually get reported from the committees until today. We are scrambling to try to see if we can get them confirmed so they can begin their service during the August recess. Therefore, that completes my unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I first want to commend the distinguished majority leader for his work in helping us clear the Executive Calendar.

There is a lot of work done with this unanimous consent request. And we have attempted to work together to do as much as is possible. I regret, frankly, that there are still a number of nominees, as the majority leader has mentioned, that are not covered by this unanimous-consent request. And I am hopeful that over the next few hours we may still allow for the confirmation of a number of those who are still pending.

As the leader indicated, some of those were just reported out of committee today. I guess most particularly, Mr. President, I am concerned that there are a number of judicial nominees that have been on the calendar for many, many months. And I