

the flames. Public passion has been aroused to a fever pitch, and we as leaders must come together to heal the open wounds, bind up the damaged trust, and, by our example, again unite our people. We would all be wise to cool the rhetoric.

For the common good, we must now put aside the bitterness that has infected our nation, and take up a new mantle. We have to work with this President and with each other, and with the members of the House of Representatives in dealing with the many pressing issues which face the nation. We must, each of us, resolve through our efforts to rebuild the lost confidence in our government institutions. We can begin by putting behind us the distrust and bitterness caused by this sorry episode, and search for common ground instead of shoring up the divisions that have eroded decency and good will and dimmed our collective vision. We must seek out our better natures and aspire to higher things. I hope that with the end of these proceedings, we can, together, crush the seeds of ugliness and enmity which have taken root in the sacred soil of our republic, and, instead, sow new respect for honestly differing views, bipartisanship, and simple kindness towards each other. We have much important work to do. And, in truth, it is long past time for us to move on.

RECESS SUBJECT TO CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was agreed to, and at 1:08 p.m., the Senate took a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reassembled at 2:43 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to go through a number of closing activities here.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. THOMAS. First, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 27, the adjournment resolution, which was received from the House. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 27

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, February 12, 1999, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 1999, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2

of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, February 11, 1999, Friday, February 12, 1999, Saturday, February 13, 1999, or Sunday, February 14, 1999, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader, or his designee, pursuant to this concurrent resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, February 22, 1999, or 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 noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

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

STENNIS TECHNOLOGY HELPS FARMERS AND ENVIRONMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I call my colleagues' attention to a recent Associated Press article on the Gulf of Mexico "Dead Zone", a large area that suffers from hypoxia, a lack of oxygen in the water. The article states that researchers attending the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science say that fertilizer runoff, which is rich in nitrogen, into the Mississippi River may contribute to this oxygen deprivation.

Now, I do not know the extent to which this may be true. However, I am proud to say that the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi is working on a high technology system that may hold the key to reducing farm nitrogen runoff while improving crop yield. The NASA Commercial Remote Sensing Program Office at Stennis, in concert with the local farming industry, are developing a new technique known as precision farming. It is, in real-time, bringing space age technology down to earth. Precision farming uses emerging space-based instruments to monitor farmers' soil content and computer technology to target fertilizer level to maximize crop yield. It will replace the widely used practice of fertilizing the entire crop to the same degree. Precision farming allows the farmer to give the land only what it needs.

Mr. Kenneth Hood of Perthshire Farms, in the Mississippi Delta town of Gunnison in Bolivar County, which is about 25 miles north of Greenville, monitors the health and soil consistency of his farm through NASA hyperspectral imaging techniques. This technique allows Mr. Hood to add fertilizer as needed in specific portions of his acreage. It also helps him detect crop stress, before it can be seen through the human eye. Stennis Space Center's goal is to help Mr. Hood use less fertilizer, lower his costs, and improve his crop yield.

This is a win for the farmer and a win for the environment. Most importantly, this technology may yield a private sector incentive to voluntarily reduce farm fertilizer runoff, a far bet-

ter solution than imposing regulatory burdens or subsidizing inefficient and less productive fertilizer limits.

NASA's Commercial Remote Sensing Program Office at Stennis Space Center should be congratulated for developing practical and productive commercial uses of this technology. This imaging technique, I believe, has application in other areas as well, such as in highway planning, environmental monitoring, resource exploration, coastal zone management and timber management.

Mr. President, I encourage all of my colleagues with an interest to contact Mr. David Brannon of the Stennis Space Center's Commercial Remote Sensing Program. I am sure many of my colleagues have farmers such as Mr. Hood who want to improve crop yield, decrease costs, and be good stewards of the environment. All they need to do is call Stennis and learn about what Mississippi has to offer.

A CALL FOR AN END TO THE POLITICAL WARS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today's votes on the Articles of Impeachment mark the end of a long and difficult journey. The story of this impeachment process suggests a number of lessons on which I expect we will all reflect individually and collectively for some time.

From the beginning of this process, I objected in the clearest terms to the President's legal hairsplitting and attempts to find a legal excuse, or any excuse, for his deplorable personal conduct. In my view, the President violated the public trust and brought dishonor to the office he holds. For that, he will have to answer to the people of this country, and to history.

But it was every senator's duty to put personal views aside and render impartial justice, based on constitutional standards and the evidence before the Senate. In my view, the President's conduct did not, under our Constitution, warrant his removal from office. Others, acting on equally sincere motives, reached a different conclusion.

It is regrettable that something about this process led to a situation, particularly in Washington, where sincere voices on both sides were too often drowned out by partisan voices—again, on both sides. But, if we listen to voices outside the nation's capital, the voices of citizens rather than of partisans, those voices tell us that something has gone terribly wrong in our public discourse.

Those citizens see the impeachment process not as a solemn constitutional event, which it assuredly was, but rather as another sad episode in the sorry saga of a bitter, partisan and negative political process that runs on the fuel of scandal. In this sense, to many Americans, the Starr investigation, and the impeachment process it spawned, were all too familiar.

To much of the American public, this whole process was a long-running, 50-million-dollar negative ad built on personal attacks, the likes of which Americans regret and reject.

I know this belief is shared by thousands of South Dakotans and millions of Americans who hold widely varying views of what the outcome of the impeachment proceeding should have been—conviction or acquittal, removal or continued service by the President to the conclusion of his term.

What are the elements, the component parts, of this political process that so many Americans judge to be merely an ugly spectacle increasingly unworthy of their participation? What is making Americans so cynical that they are voting in record-low numbers and tuning out the government meant to serve them?

Surely they must be concerned about the increased use, and misuse, of the legal process in our political process. They are no longer certain they can distinguish the proper application of the law to address real wrongdoing properly before the courts from the hijacking of the law to bludgeon political opponents and extend the battlefield of political attack.

In just ten years, we have seen the public careers of three House Speakers, representing both political parties, destroyed by scandal. As the process has escalated, Independent Counsels have pursued members of Presidents' cabinets—of both parties—and then, the President of the United States himself.

We have watched what we all acknowledge as “the politics of personal destruction” threaten to devour our democratic ideals.

We can, and we will, argue the merits of the Independent Counsel statute when it comes up for reauthorization this session. We can, and we will, continue to pursue those who are corrupt, who use their offices for personal gain, or who otherwise deserve punishment.

But the law must be preserved as an instrument for the rendering of justice, not manipulated to serve as another readily accessible weapon to be used against political adversaries.

And the law should not become a substitute for elections. Political choices in this country must remain in the hands of the people of this country, not conveyed to prosecutors and lawyers.

It is not the law's fault that there has been a hardening of position and a commitment to win at any cost. To paraphrase our former colleague Dale Bumpers' now famous declaration in his presentation to the Senate, “Sometimes we want to win too badly.”

It is time for elected officials to ask themselves, “Does anyone in this country really feel as though they have been winners in this seemingly interminable process of investigation, media spectacle and impeachment controversy?”

I hope we can keep Senator Bumpers' words in mind and honor each other with the same degree of commitment

that we bring to our disagreements. I hope we can persuade without spinning; that we can argue without shouting; that we can dissent without dividing.

We can be passionate in our beliefs without prosecuting those who believe differently.

There were no winners in this impeachment process, but there were plenty of losers. There are good people who have accumulated thousands of dollars in legal bills as a result of the years of investigating the President. There are good people—on both sides of the aisle—whose private lives will be never be private again. There are people whose reputations have been battered and beaten.

I hope we can keep those people in mind and call for—indeed, insist upon—a truce in the political wars. We need now to think about what we owe ourselves, each other and the public as we move—and I hope without further delay—to address the true agenda of the American people.

SCOTT BATES, LEGISLATIVE
CLERK OF THE SENATE

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to pay tribute to a fellow Arkansan, Scott Bates, who was struck and killed by a car on Friday. He will be severely missed by all of us.

Scott was born in Pine Bluff, AR, where he was active in church and the Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He developed a love of politics, which he followed to Washington, D.C. For twenty-six years, he performed dedicated service to the Senate, the last eight as the Senate's Legislative Clerk, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth operation of this institution. Scott was perhaps most visible, or audible, in that role because of his deep, resonant voice, calling the roll or reading legislation.

But Scott was much more than a dignifying voice to the Senate. He was a husband, a father, a colleague, and a friend to many. I spent a lot of time in the last two years with him, learning the ways of the Senate. Scott and I would reminisce about our common Arkansas roots and our mutual love for the Razorbacks. He was a man of honor and humility, an encouragement to both staffers and Senators.

We pray for his wife Ricki. May the Lord grant her a swift recovery from her surgery. We pray for his three children, Lori, Lisa, and Paul, and for his family in Arkansas. May the Lord bring healing to them in their time of loss.

We grieve and we mourn his passing, for we know that the Senate and the world will be a better place because of his life.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA NERSESIAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to lament the

too early death on December 19, after a four-year long battle with breast cancer, of a former staff member and friend, Linda Nersesian, and to offer my heartfelt sympathy to her husband Robert Rae Gordon; her two children, nine year old George Raeburn Gordon, and six year old Louise Grace Gordon; her parents, Elsie Louise Nazarian and Serop S. Nersesian; her brother Robert S. Nersesian; and the many, many friends and associates in the Congress and in Washington who will miss her greatly.

Linda served in the Senate for six and one-half years, from August 4, 1980 to January 5, 1987. She began her Senate career in the office of Senator Dole where she worked on energy and environmental issues. Linda left Senator Dole's office in April of 1981 to join my staff as a staff attorney on the Subcommittee on Agency Administration of the Judiciary Committee, which I then chaired. On the Subcommittee, Linda worked on a number of my highest legislative priorities. She consistently demonstrated initiative, intelligence, and savvy.

When I became Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aging of the Labor and Human Resources Committee at the beginning of the 98th Congress in 1983, the strong leadership qualities that Linda consistently demonstrated in her work on the Administrative Practices Subcommittee made her the perfect choice to serve as chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Aging. In that capacity, she organized the office, recruited a staff, and oversaw the work of the Subcommittee through 1983. She was also responsible for advising me on major bills relating to pharmaceutical drugs which were then under consideration by the Committee.

In late 1983, Linda once again seemed the perfect choice for a position of major responsibility, this time as the chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure. In that capacity, she was responsible for the child Pornography Act. She also worked on what became the 1986 amendments to the False Claims Act and the Equal Access to Justice Act. And she worked on defense procurement fraud. These were among my highest legislative and oversight priorities at that time.

After serving as chief counsel of the Subcommittee until January 21, 1985, Senator Dole asked Linda to be the assistant secretary of the Senate. She served in that capacity until January 5, 1987, when she left the Senate to become legislative counsel to the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association. In due course, Linda again assumed greater responsibility, becoming the Association's vice president for government relations, a position she held until she left to build her own consulting firm, the Columbia Consulting Group.

Mr. President, Linda Nersesian was a unique and remarkable individual. Her