

the Senate who sit before me here when I mentioned that word "spring."

In West Virginia, the center of the world—half the world on one side, half the world on the other—West Virginia, early daffodils pushed through great rafts of dried leaves washed up against old stone farmhouse foundations that jut like rocky reefs out of sunny hillsides. Oh, the iridescent sunsets and the viridescent hills that are West Virginia's. Bluebirds decorated telephone line perches while forsythia blossoms announced the awakening of the Earth.

Then the March lion roared with a vengeance, sending successive storm waves across the Nation. Snow buried the daffodils under a crystalline blanket of sparkling white. West Virginia was hit hard by these late storms, as were many other States. What was a boon for skiers and schoolchildren has been a real hardship for commerce and commuters.

But now, as the vernal equinox and the official first day of spring approaches, we can all look forward to the lion at last lying down with the lamb. It is time, as the poet Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837-1909), wrote in "Atlanta in Calydon":

For winter's rains and ruins are over,
And all the season of snows and sins;
The days dividing lover and lover,
The light that loses, the night that wins;
And time remembered is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins.

Once again, the warm sun encourages us to consider folding away our scarves, our gloves, and our overcoats, retiring the snow shovel to the shed, and pulling out instead the trowel and the seed packets.

How many of us have enjoyed looking at those seed packets and fancying ourselves as young farmers, how we would grow these cucumbers, or these tomatoes, or this lettuce, or these onions, or the potatoes?

What promise is contained in seed packets! What a joy. Reading garden catalogs during cold, dark winter days inspires small-scale gardeners like myself with dreams of grandeur. Ah, fancy myself growing these beautiful vegetables. Ah, I am sure that others have shared that pleasantry with me many times. A few tomato plants are all that I really have the time for, but for me those humble plants with the spicy scent, their soft leaves and glossy fruits—Better Boy, Big Boy, Beefsteak, Early Girl—a few tomato plants are all that I really have the time for, but for me, those humble plants with their spicy scent, their soft leaves and glossy fruits, serve each year to reconnect me with cycles of nature. In my few tomato plants, I share with farmers throughout the Nation worries about cold spells, early frosts, drought, excessive rainfall, fungus, and insect infestation. But, like those farmers throughout the Nation, I glory in the success of my efforts, and my family and neighbors—mostly my family—share in the bounties of those tomato plants.

How can one even dare to believe that there is no God, no Creator? Why do I put those tomato plants in the ground? Why? I have confidence that the Creator of man and the universe is going to make those tomato plants bear some fruit.

And this year I will delight in introducing the newest member of my family, too—I say to our distinguished leader, a new member of my family—a dainty great-granddaughter, Caroline Byrd Fatemi; wait until I introduce her to my garden. She was born just 2 weeks ago yesterday. So small and precious now, she will grow strong and happy in the sunshine. And perhaps someday she too will grow some tomatoes.

I do love the promise of the spring. William Jennings Bryan spoke of the Father, the Creator:

If the Father deigns to touch with divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried acorn and to make it burst forth from its prison walls, will He leave neglected in the Earth the soul of man made in the image of his Creator?

If He stoops to give to the rosebush whose withered blossoms float upon the autumn breeze, the sweet assurance of another springtime, will He refuse the words of hope to the sons of men when the frosts of winter come?

I do love the promise of the spring. Every place is better for springtime's artistry. There exists no imposing monument of granite or marble that is not improved by a softening verdigris of springtime green, highlighted by bright blooms. Washington is at its best in April and May, under bright skies and tossing cherry blossoms, with all of its governmental mass leavened by leaves. Spring travels a little slower to the hillsides of West Virginia, but it is, perhaps, all the more cherished for blooming later. There, in the deep shadows of the hills where rhododendron thickets outline quiet chapels among the cathedral of the trees, greening springtime coincides in harmony with God's Easter promise of resurrection.

I encourage my colleagues, and everyone else, too, to shake off the last of the winter blahs and go outside. Go early in the morning when the birds sing in grand chorus, or in the blinding brightness of noon, or in the lilac serenity of evening, but go outside. Go outside and breathe in the scent of hyacinths and fresh-turned earth. Plant a garden. Plant a single tomato seedling and join in the great community of gardeners and farmers and lovers of the earth. But do enjoy the springtime. It resurrects the spirit.

I asked the Robin as he sprang
From branch to branch and sweetly sang
What made his breast so round and red
"Twas looking at the sun," he said.

And I asked the violets sweet and blue,
Sparkling in the morning dew,
Whence came their colors, then so shy,
They answered, "Looking to the sky."

I saw the roses one by one
Unfold their petals to the sun.
I asked them what made their tints so
bright,

And they answered, "Looking toward the light."

I asked the thrush whose silvery note
Came like a song from angel's throat,
Why he sang in the twilight dim.
He answered, "Looking up at Him."

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. CLELAND addressed the Chair.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, will the Senator from Georgia allow me a brief action before he makes his statement, dealing with the schedule?

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I gladly yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi, the majority leader, is recognized.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR BYRD ON THE BIRTH OF HIS GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to express my happiness and congratulations to the distinguished Senator from West Virginia on the birth of his great granddaughter. One of the most memorable experiences I had in my life in the Senate was his beautiful and eloquent statement on the floor in recognition of June 20, 1998, the date of the birth of that fine young American, my grandson, Chester Trent Lott, III. So I know how much it means to Senator BYRD as his family continues to grow and expand, and what a lovely gift it is to have that great grandchild. I thank Senator BYRD for making us all aware of this. I am sorry my eloquence could never rise to the level of his on the birth of my grandson. But I will continue to work on that, I should say to Senator BYRD.

THE SMILING MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I don't know about eloquence, but I can say that the Senator from Mississippi always carries a warm smile. I have not been noted for smiling. I once read a story by Nathaniel Hawthorne entitled, "The Great Stone Face." And so I usually think of myself, in the context of that story, as the great stone face. But the distinguished Senator from Mississippi is always bubbling with energy, always on the move, always wearing a smile, always with twinkling eyes. He brings a lift to the spirits of all of us. I congratulate him. I know that grandchild of his is always going to carry the picture in his little mind of that grandfather with that sparkling, radiant smile.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator.

CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS ON KOSOVO

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator BYRD and I, as a matter of fact, just came from an extended meeting with the President of the United States, where the joy of our grandchildren and great grandchildren was also uppermost in our minds, because we are

talking about actions by our country, our Government, that affect the young people—a military action. While I always try to have that smile on my face, sometimes it is very serious, what we have to attend to. But I appreciate Senator BYRD's comments this morning to the President. I appreciate the President of the United States meeting with the leaders of Congress as we talk about the situation regarding Serbia and Kosovo. I thought it was a positive step.

The Senate, the Congress, must be involved and consulted if a decision is made to take military action, certainly if it is an action that could lead to being an act of war. And we will consider this very carefully. I think it is important this afternoon, and on Monday, the Senate be heard on this issue; that we have the time to discuss and debate, as a matter of fact, the merits and demerits of the plans in Kosovo, what risks are involved. I don't believe the American people now are properly informed about the situation as it now exists. The dynamics have definitely changed in the last few days.

We have gone from considering whether or not ground troops from the United States as a part of a NATO mission would be placed in a peaceable situation in Kosovo—to a situation where it appears that an agreed settlement is not going to be achieved and that the Serbian officials will not agree to have a NATO force come in a peaceful arrangement—to the possibility of airstrikes involving Serbian troops and Serbian sites. This is a very serious step. I think the Senate should have an opportunity to be briefed as we were on Thursday, as we meet with the President as we did today, and to continue to be involved in the dialog.

I believe the President needed to hear some of the things that he heard today. That is why these meetings are not one-way, they are two-way streets—to make sure that we as the people's representatives are being heard. We made the point, the Speaker and others made the point, that the President needs to address this issue with the American people, explain what the present circumstances are. The President will have a press conference this afternoon. I hope he will address it, and I hope there will be appropriate questions about exactly what the plans are for our military in the near term.

Does Senator BYRD wish me to yield on that point?

Mr. BYRD. Yes, if the distinguished majority leader would.

I am glad he has spoken as he has. I don't know how much the American people know about, really, what we face. And I am not sure I know, by any means. I am sure that Congress has certain constitutional responsibilities and that when it comes to sending American men and women into war, into conflict, into danger, Congress also bears part of the responsibility. I am fearful that in recent years especially, American Presidents in both

parties have not recognized that fact, and they have, sent men and women into areas of peril without taking the Congress along with them.

I think we learned in Vietnam that unless the American people are behind an effort such as that, it cannot succeed. I believe that Congress ought to fulfill its duties. But I also believe that Congress has to take a stand and demand that its constitutional prerogatives be recognized. No President can carry on a war without the support of Congress or without the support of the American people. I am sure the distinguished majority leader feels the same way about it. We are on the edge of a great precipice here of national danger. And what is happening in the Balkans is something that should be of great concern to all of us and to the people of the world. It was from that area, may I say to my friend, that the Roman legions procured their fiercest fighters. There has been turmoil and fighting in that area of the world for hundreds and hundreds of years. We are seeing there today an individual, Mr. Milosevic, who has a strong will and who is absolutely ruthless in his determination to subjugate and to massacre and to exterminate other peoples.

The President needs to get out front and tell the American people why it is, if we are going to send our men and women into conflict there. If we are going to send planes in there, some of those planes may be shot down. Americans may be held hostage. Americans may be killed. The American people need to know what we are about to do and why and what the end game is and what the exit strategy is, what the motivations are, what the costs are going to be, before we get out there on a limb and have a lot of people killed.

I hope the President will take the lead. Sandy Berger or the Secretary of State or even the Vice President cannot speak for the one man in the country who is the President of the United States, whether he is a Democrat or Republican. The President has the responsibility to get out front, tell the American people what we face and if we are about to send men and women into war, and when this will end, if we ever go there, ever begin bombing. We need to know this. The President needs the Congress behind him. He can't do this alone. He needs the Congress behind him. He needs Republicans and Democrats. We can only be behind him if we understand what we are being asked to do. We don't really understand.

I compliment the majority leader and the minority leader for requesting—they should not have to request this—this hearing in the presence of the President of the United States. That is the man we need to hear from. He is the man who has to put his name on the line. He has to get out front. He has to tell the American people the truth, and he has to tell Congress. He has to keep Congress informed. He must not get out too far in front of

Congress, because, otherwise, he will look behind him and wonder where the troops are one day, meaning the congressional battalions.

I thank the distinguished majority leader.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 81

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on behalf of the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I now call for the regular order with respect to amendment No. 81.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) proposes an amendment numbered 81.

AMENDMENT NO. 124

(Purpose: Prohibiting the use of funds for military operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) unless Congress enacts specific authorization in law for the conduct of those operations)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk to the pending Hutchison amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report that amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) proposes an amendment numbered 124 to the amendment No. 81.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the word SEC. and insert the following:

FINDINGS.—

The Senate Finds That—

(1) United States national security interests in Kosovo do not rise to a level that warrants military operations by the United States; and

(2) Kosovo is a province in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a sovereign state:

SEC. . RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds available to the Department of Defense (including prior appropriations) may be used for the purpose of conducting military operations by the Armed Forces of the United States in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) unless Congress first enacts a law containing specific authorization for the conduct of those operations.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to—

(1) any intelligence or intelligence-related activity or surveillance or the provision of logistical support; or

(2) any measure necessary to defend the Armed Forces of the United States against an immediate threat.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk to the pending second-degree amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.