When I came to Congress, China was a revolutionary power, which would have used this recent currency crisis to spread disorder, spread revolution throughout Southeast Asia and the Korean peninsula. But today it is a beneficiary of Thai, Singapore, Korean and Malay investment, and these countries are also China's markets. China has responded to the crisis by contributing to their recovery through currency stability and several billion dollars in contributions to IMF recovery packages.

The WTO accession will deepen and strengthen this process. At the same time, it will move China toward the rule of law, give Chinese working people, students and families more frequent, more open contact with foreigners and, thus, contribute to our work toward a China which has more respect of the law and more respect for human rights.

Mr. President, the U.S. negotiators thus far have done an excellent job. They have already offered American farmers a ray of hope during a very difficult year. We are very close to accessions that will make trade with China fundamentally more fair for our country. It will then be up to the Senate, to our colleagues, to take the final step by making the normal trade relations we now offer to China permanent.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). If the Senator will withhold, morning business is closed.

FINANCIAL SERVICES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 900, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 900) to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, insurance companies, and other financial service providers, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Sarbanes (for DASCHLE/SARBANES) amendment No. 302, in the nature of a substitute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time until 12 noon shall be divided between the Senator from Texas and the Senator from Maryland, with 23 minutes for Senator GRAMM and 17 minutes for Senator SARBANES.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. MACK. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I thank Senator GRAMM for yielding me the time. I have a comment or two with respect to the process that we have gone through in putting this legislation together.

I commend Senator GRAMM. I can't think of a time in my now 17 years in the Congress where I have had a chairman of a committee that has spent as much time with the other members of the committee, walking through a particular piece of legislation, each aspect of it, making sure that each of us was prepared and educated on the various issues. There are some difficult issues that face us—the whole issue of CRA, unitary thrifts, the mixing of banking and commerce, the issue of operating subsidiaries versus affiliates, all of them complicated.

I can remember not too many years ago when there was this sense in America that the model which should be followed was the Japanese banking system that people looked at and said, we ought to look at Japan, the dynamic economy they were producing in the late 1980s. I think about how much things have changed in those 10 years.

Mr. SARBANES. Will the Senator yield on that point very briefly?

Mr. MACK. I will be glad to yield for a moment.

Mr. SARBANES. I remember people would say that the Japanese had all the largest banks in the world and they were saying, look. And now look at the situation.

Mr. MACK. It is a dramatic change, and here we are. We have been talking about this legislation for all those years and we haven't made the modifications we needed to make. I hope we will be successful this time.

I rise in support of the underlying bill and in opposition to the Sarbanes substitute. We all know that legislation to overhaul the bank regulatory structure is long overdue, and I join many of my colleagues in thanking the chairman for his hard work in writing this bill and bringing it to the floor.

I will begin by quoting the words of the Senate Banking Committee report, which I believe presents a strong case for financial modernization. It states:

The argument for legislation to rationalize our financial structure is strong. Regulatory and court decisions have eliminated many of the barriers between commercial and investment banking. The barriers separating commercial banks from investment banks have been perforated in both directions. Finally, changes in the technology and practice of financial intermediation have rendered the restrictions of Glass-Steagall increasingly ineffective and obsolete.

There is nothing particularly remarkable about that language, Mr. President. In fact, those same arguments will be made by many of my colleagues here today. But what is remarkable about the statement I just read is that it comes from a committee report on banking legislation in 1991. Just as I believed those words to be significant 8 years ago, I believe them to be even more so today. Unfortunately, there was no overhaul of our banking system in 1991. And despite much hard work and a clear need for action, there has been none since. We are long overdue for this debate and I am pleased the Senate is addressing this important issue.

Freedom and free enterprise have allowed our corporate and financial institutions to respond to changing times and to adapt to a changing financial environment. But this ability has reached its limits within the confines of present law. For our financial institutions to continue to grow, to compete, and to evolve, we must give them a new legislative climate in which to operate. That is the purpose of the bill before us today.

Mr. President, our banking system is truly a model for the world. Emerging economies from Asia to Africa to Central Europe look to the United States for the blueprint and technical expertise to build an effective financial infrastructure. This is happening because we have found a remarkable balance between community banks and global institutions, between the regulators and the regulated, between the States and the Federal Government, and between ordinary people and the money they need to finance their hopes and dreams. In recent years, we have witnessed a wave of high-profile mergers, as institutions across the sectors hope to create ''synergy'' from offering a broad range of financial products to an expanding global customer base. For their part, many smaller, community-based institutions are using the new regulatory authorities to offer their customers one-stop shopping for individual financial needs—from ordinary retail banking to insurance products and securities instruments.

All of this is very important to the continued financial well-being of our Nation and to the global competitiveness of our financial services industry. However, the expansions I speak of are not taking place with the approval of the Congress and are not occurring through any action on our part to change the law. Rather, these things are happening because—as the 1991 report mentioned—court decisions and the broadened interpretations of present law by the banking regulators have allowed them to take place in an ad hoc manner. In order to access the right to affiliate with other sectors, financial companies have to jump over increasingly complicated regulatory hurdles in order to adapt and survive. It is high time Congress weighed in on this important trend. It is high time we cleared the way for these affiliations and repealed the underlying web of Depression-era restrictions on our banking industry.

That is what we accomplish in the bill before us today, Mr. President. This legislation allows companies to diversify holdings by lifting the prohibitions on affiliations among banks, insurance companies, and securities firms, thus allowing them to compete fully in a free-market environment. If Congress fails to act, we will once again limit the potential of our financial sector and we will continue to impose needless and unnecessary regulatory burdens on individual financial institutions. The other body is moving with its own legislation. The Senate needs to act now to ensure that our financial sector is on solid footing for the new century.

The bill before us repeals the Depression-era Glass-Steagall law prohibiting affiliations between commercial and investment banks. It allows banks and insurance companies to affiliate under the same corporate umbrella. It contains provisions outlining the appropriate regulation of bank sales of insurance, and it allows banks with assets of less than $1 billion to engage in a broader range of financial services through operating subsidiaries. Of course, Mr. President, the relationships between these entities are carefully constructed to ensure institutional safety and soundness and that the taxpayer-insured deposits of retail banking institutions are protected.

The structure provided for in this legislation will end the ad hoc expansion and administration of our banking sector and provide the industry with a clear roadmap for the 21st century. In my view, it will lead to greater stability, enhanced safety and soundness, and improved choices for customers and consumers.

So I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important bill and defeat the Sarbanes substitute.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. What is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time is under the control of the Senator from Texas and the Senator from Maryland.

Mr. LOTT. I yield myself time out of my leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I will be brief because we have to get back to this Financial Services Modernization Act. I know the two managers managing this are working on it studiously, and we will be having votes later today. It looks to me as if we can make good progress.

MARY BETH BOYER BLACK, MISSISSIPPI'S 1999 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I join my other colleagues here today in recognizing National Teacher Appreciation Week. I am the son of a schoolteacher. My mother taught school for 19 years, between first and the sixth grade. She finally had to leave teaching because in those days teachers basically could not make enough money to live on. She wound up in bookkeeping and broadcasting. I also worked for a university for 3 years, and I have a very serious appreciation for our teachers and the jobs they do.

I have stayed in touch, over the years, with my second-, third-, and fourth-grade teachers at Duck Hill, MS. I don't know why, but I particularly remember those three and have always appreciated them. I guess we remember the ones who teach us to write and do the basic reading. They were wonderful women and wonderful people, and they inspired me in many ways.

So in appreciation of this National Teacher Appreciation Week, I will quote from the Bible. It says:

> Train up the child in the way he should go, and when he's old, he will not depart from it.

Those were the words of Solomon. That is good advice from Solomon.

So today I want to pay particular attention to our Mississippi Teacher of the Year, Mary Beth Black. She teaches chemistry, physics, and advanced placement physics. I remember those courses. They are the reason I didn't go into pharmacy or med school. Biology, chemistry, physics—I took all the college preparatory courses, and I look back now and I know that I was wasting space. I was really never destined to major in the sciences. But it is so important that we have teachers who inspire students in that area. If we are going to be competitive in the future, in the next millennium, and participate in the world economy, we are going to have to have students who are good in science, physics, computer sciences, and the sciences in general.

In order for them to learn what they need to know and to be inspired in that field, you need great teachers like this teacher, the ''Teacher of the Year'' in Mississippi, who teaches at Emory, MS, a wonderful lady with a wonderful record.

She points, interestingly enough, to her second-grade teacher who, she noted, inspired her when she was 7 years old—that she knew when she was 7 she could be anything she chose to be: She could be a brain surgeon, she could drive a fire truck, or go to the Moon. But this second-grade teacher inspired her to want to be a teacher. She always wanted to be a teacher—and to be more than just a teacher, to be an inspiration to young people.

She said:

> Second grade can be challenging. My problem was cursive writing or ''real writing'' as we second graders called it. No matter how hard I tried, my loops and swoops and tilts were never as good as my peers.

''Until now,'' she said, ''school had been great.'' But in this instance it got to be a problem and a challenge. But her second-grade teacher, Mrs. Hurt, worked with her and taught her and then became an inspiration to her.

So today I give thanks and appreciation to all of our teachers across our great country, and in my State of Mississippi to the ''Mrs. Hurts'' who taught in those small, sometimes one- and two-classroom buildings as my mother did, who not only taught the course but inspired a generation of more teachers such as Mary Beth Black, Mississippi's Teacher of the Year.

An 18th-century American historian, Henry Brooks Adams, said: ''A teacher affects eternity; (she) can never tell where (her) influence stops.''

So our teachers influence our young people, and they affect the future of our country and the world. Thanks to all of them.

I yield the floor.

FINANCIAL SERVICES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I yield such time as the minority leader may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished ranking member, the Senator from Maryland. I thank him and the Democratic members of the Banking Committee for the tremendous leadership and patience that, in particular, Senator SARBANES has demonstrated in getting us to this point.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of all my colleagues on the Senate Banking Committee, and especially the fellow Democrats of the Banking Committee, who have put so much effort and energy and diligence into bringing us to this very important debate, and ultimately this vote which we will shortly have.

I might add, as I know the distinguished Senator from Maryland has already noted, that every Democratic member of the Senate Banking Committee is a cosponsor of the substitute we will be voting on shortly. Together, my colleagues on the committee have produced a proposal to give financial service companies new freedoms and new flexibility—without risking the financial well-being of our economy or of individuals. It is a balanced, responsible proposal—one the President can sign—and, on behalf of the entire Democratic caucus, I thank them for producing it.

Let me be very clear, Mr. President. Senate Democrats support financial services modernization. We want to see a bill passed. There is no good reason that can't happen this year—in fact, this week.

This should not be a partisan issue. Historically, it has not been one.

Our substitute is based on last year's H.R. 10. The Senate Banking Committee passed H.R. 10 on a vote of 16 to 2—16 to 2. Republicans on the Senate Banking Committee supported H.R. 10 last year. So did virtually every major financial services industry group.

In the House, the House Banking Committee passed a very similar bill this year. Again, the vote was overwhelmingly bipartisan—51 to 8.