

fund plays a major role, and it is about to run out, so we should reauthorize it. That is why I have offered this authorization. I hope the Senate will agree to it.

I suggest we set a vote for tomorrow, if that is all right with the Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I suggest to the distinguished chairman that we limit the time to be equally divided.

Mr. GREGG. I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Senator BIDEN and Senator LEAHY wish to be heard on this in the morning. If it is all right with the distinguished chairman, we will reserve that time for the morning.

Mr. GREGG. Why don't we reserve a half hour of the time on this amendment so it can be given to Senator BIDEN and Senator LEAHY and they can take that time between them.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Good. They are ready, then, to lay down that amendment on COPS. I thank the Chair.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that under the time agreement, no second-degree amendments be in order.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, tomorrow I will ask unanimous consent that all first-degree amendments be filed by noon. Hopefully, we can get an agreement on that. I am not asking it now.

Mr. HOLLINGS. We have to check on our side.

Mr. GREGG. I am telling people so, hopefully, they will have their amendments together tonight, and staff will listen to this request and be all charged up to get their amendments down here by 12 o'clock tomorrow.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with deep sadness that I come to the floor today to speak of the tragedy that struck the Kennedy family last Friday night. I offer my condolences to the Kennedy family, and in particular to my friend and colleague, Senator KENNEDY of Massachusetts, who has lost a beloved nephew.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Kennedy and Bessette families as they struggle to cope with the loss of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister Lauren Bessette. While we as a nation mourn the loss of a young man who had so much yet to offer the world, these families must suffer the private pain of the loss of their beloved brother or sisters, their children, their cousins, their friends.

The late John F. Kennedy was a genuine inspiration to me and so many of my generation. I am grateful for the hope and the direction that President Kennedy gave so many of us when we were young, and I know that in his own way John F. Kennedy, Jr., carried on his father's work to inspire young people to public service, or to otherwise serve the public good, throughout his lifetime.

There can perhaps be no comparison to the contributions the Kennedy family has made to our country, or the sacrifices the family has endured, and sadly continues to endure with the death of John F. Kennedy, Jr. Like his father and his uncle Bobby, John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s life was cut tragically short, but like them he lived his life to the fullest, with the vigor and dedication that marks the Kennedy legacy.

Recently I had the honor of receiving the Profile in Courage Award from the late President Kennedy's family, and had the pleasure of meeting and spending time with John F. Kennedy, Jr. I was impressed by his kindness, his dignity, and the keen grasp of both politics and policy which he so often displayed as editor of George magazine. John reflected all the best hopes we have for our country, as did his father before him.

In a speech I gave at that time, I chose one of the many beautiful memorials I have heard about President Kennedy to express my own feelings. The following passage from Romeo and Juliet was previously used by Robert F. Kennedy himself at the 1964 Democratic convention to memorialize his brother:

and, when he shall die,
take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with
night.

And pay no worship to the garish sun.

These words both pained and consoled us as we remembered John F. Kennedy then, and they do the same today as we mourn the loss of his son, John F. Kennedy, Jr.

Mr. President, again I offer my condolences to all those who have been affected by this tragedy. I yield the floor.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO 11 LUNAR LANDING

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution that I offered yesterday with Senator SESSIONS and many of my colleagues which recognizes the 30th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Lunar Landing.

Mr. President, for thousands of years, men looked to the sky and were fascinated by the moon. To our forefathers it was a source of wonder, hope, curiosity and fear. Near enough to draw their attention, yet so far beyond their reach to remain a constant mystery, the moon was an unattainable destination for the people of earth.

Undaunted by the significance of the task, President Kennedy called upon our nation "to commit itself to achieving the goal . . . of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth." With this challenge, a goal that had previously exceeded the grasp of every generation, became the mission of the United States to achieve within ten years.

Facing this great endeavor, the men and women of the American Space Program set to work with steadfast conviction. While their efforts produced steady results, there were tragic losses and technical setbacks that tested their resolve. Brave men gave their lives. Brilliant men and women spent countless hours trying to work through the numerous difficulties associated with such a complex undertaking. However, all remained dedicated to the goal of landing a man on the moon.

On July 20, 1969, 30 years ago yesterday, that goal was achieved. On that day, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin closed the timeless breach that had separated the earth from the moon and landed on the Sea of Tranquility. With Neil Armstrong's first step on the lunar surface, the American Space Program met the awesome challenge set by President Kennedy. This important event marks America's ascendance to the preeminent role that it occupies today as the world's leader in space exploration.

While yesterday was an important anniversary for all the people of the world, it was especially important for the people of the United States. Landing men on the moon represents a great triumph of American endeavor. As the Spanish could be proud for having built the great ships that carried Columbus on his voyage of discovery, American scientists and engineers can feel equally proud for having built the Saturn V Rocket, the vehicle that carried the astronauts to the moon. That no other nation has produced a similar vehicle is a testament to the unparalleled achievement of our Space Program.

This resolution celebrates the anniversary of the great achievement of landing men on the moon. It celebrates the efforts of the many men and women who defied the odds and helped to make what was once believed to be

impossible, possible. Finally, it celebrates the courageous spirit of the American people.

PENDING NOMINATION OF BILL LANN LEE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today in communities all around the country and here at the United States Capitol, Asian Pacific Americans are leading all Americans in a demonstration of our commitment to one America, equal opportunity and equal justice under law by urging the Senate to vote on the nomination of Bill Lann Lee to head the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. I hear the call of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for prompt Senate consideration and a vote on this highly-qualified nominee and dedicated public servant. I commend the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and their Chair Daphne Kwok, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium for their leadership in connection with this matter and their commitment to fundamental fairness.

Today is the second anniversary of the initial nomination of Bill Lann Lee to the office of Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. I repeat today what I have said before: It is past time to do the right thing, the honorable thing, and report this qualified nominee to the Senate so that the Senate may fulfill its constitutional duty under the advice and consent clause and vote on this nomination without further delay. Two years is too long to wait for Senate action on this important nomination.

Yesterday, I was privileged to attend a meeting with the President of the United States in the East Room of the White House in which he issued a challenge to the lawyers of our country to rededicate themselves to help build one America and realize the American dream of equality for all under the law. What kind of message is the Senate sending when it refuses to act on the nomination of this outstanding Asian Pacific American?

After Bill Lann Lee graduated from Yale and then Columbia Law School he could have spent his career in the comfort and affluence of any one of the nation's top law firms. He chose, instead, to spend his career on the front lines, helping to open the doors of opportunity to those who struggle in our society. His is an American story. The son of immigrants whose success can be celebrated by all Americans.

In my view, Bill Lann Lee should be commended for the years he worked to provide legal services and access to our justice system for those without the financial resources otherwise to retain counsel. His work should be a source of pride and a basis for praise. His career should be a model for those who take up the challenge that the President

enunciated yesterday to lawyers across this country. I say that Bill Lann Lee represented the best of the legal profession while serving those without means.

It appears that some on the Republican side want to hold the Lee nomination as a partisan trophy—to kill it through obstruction and delay rather than allowing the Senate to vote up or down on the nomination. This effort started with a letter from the former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, to the Republican Majority Leader of the Senate in 1997. Over the ensuing weekend progress toward confirmation of this nomination ground to a halt. Speaker Gingrich is gone but the disastrous consequence of his unjustified opposition to this nomination lingers. It is past time to put past injustice to rest. As speaker after speaker reiterated today across the country, it is time for the Senate to vote on the nomination of Bill Lann Lee.

Bill Lann Lee's skills, his experience, the compelling personal journey that he and his family have traveled, his commitment to full opportunity for all Americans—these qualities appeal to the best in us. Let us affirm the best in us. Let the Senate vote on the confirmation of this good man. We need Bill Lann Lee's proven problem-solving abilities in these difficult times with apparent hate crimes on the rise across the country. He is spearheading efforts against hate crimes, against modern slavery and for equal justice for all Americans.

If the Senate is allowed to decide, I believe he will be confirmed and will move this country forward to a time when discrimination will subside and affirmative action is no longer needed; a time when each child—girl or boy, black or white, rich or poor, urban or rural, regardless of national or ethnic origin and regardless of sexual orientation or disability—shall have a fair and equal opportunity to live the American dream.

Earlier this year Congress voted to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Mrs. Rosa Parks. I heard Mrs. Parks, Reverend Jackson and the President each take the occasion to remind us that the struggle for equality is not over.

I will ask the Judiciary Committee again tomorrow, in the spirit of fairness, that the Committee recognize the 18-month stewardship of the Civil Rights Division of Bill Lann Lee, his qualifications, and his quiet dignity and strength and send his nomination to the full Senate so that the United States Senate may, at long last, vote on that nomination and, I hope, confirm this fine American to full rank as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

When confirmed Bill Lann Lee will be the first Asian Pacific American to be appointed to head the Civil Rights Division in its storied history and the highest ranking Federal Executive officer of Asian Pacific American heritage in our 200-year history.

I have previously brought to all Senators' attention a June letter from the Assistant Attorneys General for Civil Rights from the Eisenhower through Bush Administrations in support of this outstanding nominee: Harold Tyler, Burke Marshall, Stephen J. Polak, J. Stanley Pottinger, Drew Days and John R. Dunne note in their letter:

Over the past eighteen months, Mr. Lee has shown that he honors the Civil Rights Division's mission to safeguard equal justice for all. He has enforced the nation's civil rights laws fairly and effectively. He has demonstrated that he can and will meet the demands of the position with distinction and thus merits the Senate's confidence.

Civil Rights is about human dignity and opportunity. Bill Lann Lee ought to have an up or down confirmation vote on the Senate floor. The Senate should fulfill its constitutional duty under the advice and consent clause and vote on this nomination. Twenty-four months and three sessions of Congress is too long for this nomination to have to wait. He should no longer be forced to ride in the back on the nominations bus but be given the fair vote that he deserves.

I have often referred to the Senate as acting at its best when it serves as the conscience of the nation. I call on the Judiciary Committee and the Senate to bring this nomination to the floor for an up or down vote without obstruction or further delay so that the Senate may vote and we may confirm a dedicated public servant to lead the Civil Rights Division into the next century. Racial discrimination, and harmful discrimination in all its forms, remain among the most vexing unsolved problems of our society. Let the Senate move forward from the ceremonial commemorations earlier this year by doing what is right and voting on the nomination of Bill Lann Lee.

SWEARING IN OF DIANE WATSON AS AMBASSADOR TO MICRONESIA

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, it is with real pleasure that I rise today to note the swearing-in this afternoon of California State Senator Diane Watson as United States Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia. Senator Watson's confirmation was a long time coming, and I am proud that today she will finally come to occupy the Ambassadorial posting which she so well deserves.

State Senator Watson was the first African-American women elected to the California State Senate, and has represented California's 26th District—which includes Los Angeles, Culver City, Ladera Heights, Baldwin Hills, Palms, Miracle Mile, Mar Vista, Cheviot Hills, and Koreatown—since 1978. Senator Watson has been a real leader in California politics and community life, and has been in the forefront of the fight for civil rights and human rights in Los Angeles and the entire state of California for her entire career. She was a dedicated crusader in