

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

#### THE PROGRESS OF THE SENATE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to speak about energy, which seems to be one of the things I think is very important that people are talking about. But first I wish to comment a little on the progress, or lack thereof, that we are making in the Senate. It is not unusual that we come up to the end of the session and find ourselves kind of blocked up here, and things have been postponed until now. Of course, it is the appropriations bills that always end up in this category. We have 13 of them to pass in order to keep the Government going. The fiscal year expired at the end of September, of course. We have extended our time and will do it into next week again.

One of the important roles of Congress is this allocation of funding. It is one that is very important and really needs to be given all the attention we can give it. I think we ought to move as quickly as we can to do that job. I hope we don't end up with huge omnibus bills at the end of the session. They are so large that people don't know what is in them. I would rather we deal with them individually as much as possible. Let me say that one of the things we ought to consider, which I have supported since I have been in the Congress—and from my experience in the Wyoming Legislature—is I think we ought to have a 2-year budgeting arrangement, which would alleviate this sort of thing every year. Nevertheless, we are not there.

However, we need to move forward. When we are ready with the appropriations bills, we ought to do that. I favor the bill being talked about here. I think it is a good bill. I don't know why it wasn't brought up earlier in the week when we were sitting here and didn't have anything before us. Now we are down to the last hours of this week and we bring up something that stops the opportunity for us to pass legislation regarding appropriations. I think that is unfortunate. In any event, we ought to be doing that.

Obviously, one of the difficulties with appropriations has been this idea of attaching to them the kinds of things that are not within the appropriations process because it is the end of the session, and because they have not been handled, or some refused to handle them earlier. That was wrong, in my opinion. I hope we consider a rule that would make that more difficult.

#### ENERGY POLICY

Regarding energy, we ought to talk about that. We ought to talk, more importantly, about where we want to be, and what we think the role of the domestic energy program ought to be to achieve what we consider to be our goal. I have become more and more aware of the importance of that sort of thing in all the legislation that we ad-

dress. Really, it became clear to me when we were talking about re-regulation of electricity. We got wrapped up in all the different kinds of details that necessarily go into it, but really I don't think we had a clear vision of where we wanted to be when we were through. We didn't have a clear vision of our goal.

To a large extent, I think that is the case with energy. We have high prices, for gasoline, for natural gas, and we are going to have higher electricity and heating oil prices, and so on. Of course, that is the problem we see, but what do we see as the solution? I think certainly these high prices ought not to be a big surprise. This administration hasn't had an energy policy. We were very happy when oil was \$10 a barrel. When it gets up to \$35 a barrel, we are very unhappy, and I understand that. I don't recommend that, either.

We ought to have intermediate pricing. You don't do that without an energy policy. We have lacked a domestic energy policy that keeps us from being entirely dependent and subservient to OPEC and the foreign oil producers. We have allowed ourselves to do that.

It is not new that we don't have one. The Clinton administration has relied on short-term fixes. The most current one was to release crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which was 30 million barrels, and I don't suppose that will change the world. That is a short-term kind of reaction, not a long-term solution to where we are going. That has been the latest short-term fix.

I agree with increasing funding for Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance, and other short-term fixes. Those are good, and they have to be done because of where we are. But the fact is, if we are going to get out of that over time, then we have to do something different. We have to take a look at EPA's regulations that have had the effect of shutting down coal-fired powerplants in the Midwest. We have more coal resources probably than most anything. We can do more about the difficulties that have happened in the past. We have done a great deal because coal is now a clean source, but this administration has made it more and more difficult for that to happen. The fact that coal supplies 56 percent of the Nation's electric energy is very important, of course.

I have a personal feeling about it because our State is the highest producer of low sulfur coal. We have had 36 refineries shut down since 1992. No new ones have been built since 1996, largely because the EPA pressed for continuing restrictions that make it much more difficult. This administration—particularly the Vice President—calls for green alternatives. I don't know of anybody who opposes that idea. Green alternatives, right now, provide about 2 percent of our energy needs. It is going to be a very long time before solar or wind energy moves in to do that. So that can't be our short-term/long-term policy.

There are a lot of things that can be done and we are moving to try to do that. It has to do with domestic energy policy which would help increase domestic production so that we are not totally subject to the whims of OPEC. Since 1992, our oil production in this country has gone down 17 percent. Consumption has gone up 14 percent. Part of that is in States such as Wyoming in the West, where 50 percent of the State is owned by the Federal Government. Those areas of Federal land—not all—are for multiple use.

We found this administration making it much more difficult for exploration and production to take place for the multiple use of public lands. That is not a good idea. U.S. jobs were involved in the exploring and producing. We used to have 400,000 of those jobs. Now it is less than 300,000, which is a 27-percent decline. These imports are rapidly growing—up 56 percent now—and we need to move forward with that.

This is really an issue we can do something about. We need to do something about it. I could go over a lot of things this administration has brought about that have helped to create the energy crisis we are in now. I am urging that we look at some of the things that are available to us and that we can do to reach the goal we want in order to be more self-reliant for our energy. We can do something about consumption, too, and I have no problem about that. However, that is not a short-term problem. A short-term problem is going to be the price to farmers, ranchers, truckers, and to people who use oil particularly for heating in the wintertime.

Certainly we are not going to be able to solve this problem in the next few days. I hope we can move forward with our appropriations process, which is obviously before us now. I do think we ought to be giving a great deal of thought to establishing a domestic energy policy that will, in fact, help level out our dependency on foreign oil and be good for this economy and good for American citizens.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. McCain. Mr. President, I await the return of the Senator from Alaska, who I believe would like to object to a unanimous consent agreement I may seek.

If the Senator from Connecticut is waiting, perhaps we can extend morning business for a few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business has been extended.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, Senator STEVENS and I will have a joint statement on an unrelated matter.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if my friend from Connecticut will yield, morning business has been extended until 11:15, with time evenly divided between Senator STEVENS and Senator DODD. I think everybody will get their wish, because Senator STEVENS will be here momentarily to make a statement and,

following Senator STEVENS, Senator DODD will make a statement.

Mr. MCCAIN. I apologize to the Chair. I thought when I left the floor that morning business had expired at 11 a.m.

I will await 11:15.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I know my colleague from Alaska is going to come here shortly to share some thoughts and comments with me this morning. I will begin in order to move things along.

#### GIFT TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise—and will be joined by my friend and colleague from Alaska—to speak about a remarkable gift that was made to our wonderful country yesterday.

Yesterday, it was announced that the Library of Congress—the greatest library in the world—would receive the single largest gift in its history—\$60 million—to promote scholarly excellence. Like a university, the center will have endowed chairs in a number of fields.

The remarkable gift by a remarkable person will also establish a \$1 million annual prize for lifetime achievement in scholarly endeavors.

The gift has been made by a wonderful man whom I have known for many years and for whom I have great admiration, John Kluge. He is also a very good friend of the Senator from Alaska.

John Kluge immigrated to our shores from Germany nearly eight decades ago.

He began his working life selling shoes, clothes, and stationery, and moved up from there to become one of our nation's most successful businessmen. Like many others whose lives followed a similar path, Mr. Kluge has decided to give something back to the country that has given him so much over his years of living in this Nation. His remarkable gift of \$60 million will benefit all Americans by raising standards of scholarly excellence, and blazing new paths of knowledge in areas of science, the humanities, and the social sciences.

It will also, in my view, be immensely beneficial to our institutions of government. Those of us who serve in those institutions will have the benefit of the fresh, bold thinking that men and women of scholarly achievement can bring to the most pressing challenges that we face as a nation. Hopefully, this gift will contribute to making our nation even more prosperous and just in the years to come.

Perhaps most importantly, however, this gift stands as testimony to the unique and ongoing promise of America. Every day, we are reminded by events large and small that this is an extraordinary country. Our is a country that—despite its problems—offers individuals a level of freedom, equality, and dignity unsurpassed anywhere

else on the planet, or indeed, in the history of the world. That is why people risk their lives to come to our shores.

That is why we are the inspiration for people who in fact yesterday rose up against tyranny—the people of Yugoslavia—on the shores of the Balkans.

The extraordinarily generous gift given yesterday by Mr. Kluge to the Library of Congress reminds all Americans that ours is a land of limitless possibility—a land where even the most humble can go on to achieve great success. And it is a gift that reminds each one of us that, in our own way, we have an opportunity and an obligation to give back to the country that has given us so much. Because more than anything else, America is the sum of the acts of selfless patriotism of its people. Any time we are reminded of that fact, my colleagues, we receive a gift whose value far exceeds its monetary sum.

John Kluge gave such a gift yesterday, as he has on countless other occasions.

In addition to this remarkable gift which John Kluge gave to the Library of Congress, he has helped raise \$48 million in private funds for the Library on previous occasions to establish an electronic enterprise, the National Digital Library, with which my colleague from Alaska has been deeply involved. Congress appropriated an additional \$15 million for that program.

Over the years, he has given \$13 million of his own money to the Library, including \$5 million to kick start the digital library.

John Kluge was the major contributor who orchestrated the wonderful 200th celebration of the Library of Congress.

He has given millions of dollars to other wonderful causes, universities, and other worthwhile enterprises.

I have known John Kluge for years and years. He was a wonderful friend of my parents. I have spent an awful lot of time with him over a number of years, particularly in the last number of months. He truly is a great American, truly a great patriot, and his wonderful contribution is going to make the Library of Congress an even greater institution in the years to come than it has been.

I wanted to take a minute to express the gratitude of all of us, my constituents, and all Americans to John Kluge for his remarkable contribution to our Nation.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, yesterday, as chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress, it was my privilege to join Vice Chairman BILL THOMAS and Dr. James Billington out by our Ohio Clock to announce the largest gift in the history of our Library in 200 years. There has never been a greater gift to the Library of Congress.

As the Senator from Connecticut has said, John W. Kluge is a marvelous individual who is renowned in the inter-

national corporate community as one of the Library's staunchest supporters and most devoted people to the Madison Council. As a matter of fact, he was the founder of the Madison Council. He has now given the Library a gift of another \$60 million.

Mr. Kluge's leadership in the Madison Council has enabled the Library to raise a total of \$222 million in private donations for the Library over the last 10 years. His contributions alone amount to \$73 million.

Yesterday's gift of \$60 million will establish The John W. Kluge Center and Prize in the Human Sciences which will endow 5 scholarly chairs, and fellows, and will recognize areas of study not currently covered by the Noble prize structure. The Center will endow chairs in areas such as American law and government, American cultures and societies, technology and society, and modern culture. The Librarian will make the appointments in consultation with the Library's Scholars Council, and the first chairs will be awarded in 2001.

The Kluge Prize in the Human Sciences will include areas of study not covered by the Nobel Prize, including areas such as history, anthropology, sociology, literary and artistic criticism. Strangely enough, I had been discussing with one of my esteemed friends a similar type of approach to cover areas not covered by our Nobel Prize process. The prize will be a cash award of \$1 million.

In addition, the award ceremony will recognize a lifetime of achievement in the Intellectual Arts, just as the Kennedy Center Honors recognize lifetime achievement in the performing arts. As Dr. Billington noted, "the Kluge Center will help bridge the divide between the academic and political worlds, between knowledge and power." He summed up the need for the Center best when he said, "We need broader and deeper exchanges; to make time for greater contemplation, what Milton called 'wisdom's best nurse'."

I speak for all of the Joint Committee members in saying that we are deeply grateful for the support the Library has received from Mr. Kluge, and the private sector under Dr. Billington's leadership. Over this past year, and in celebration of the Library's Bicentennial, the private sector has supported hundreds of activities. With Mr. Kluge's extraordinary gift of \$60 million, the total amount of gifts and donations to the Library during its bicentennial year from the private sector, particularly the Madison Council, totals \$106 million.

On behalf of the Joint Committee on the Library, I extend Congress' deepest thanks to John Kluge, and all of the members of the Madison Council. Their generosity has been outstanding. It has helped to make possible the digital initiatives at the Library, and has added priceless collections over the past 10 years. The nation owes Mr. Kluge a debt of gratitude for his generous support. I ask that a copy of the remarks