

Bruen, Meredith Miller, and Shannon Falten.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ann Ifekwunigwe, a fellow of my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the entire ESEA debate.

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

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Matthew Lyon, a fellow with the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, be afforded floor privileges during the consideration of S. 2, the Educational Opportunities Act, and during any votes in relation thereto.

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

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator HATCH, I ask unanimous consent that Becky Shipp of Senator HATCH's staff and Jeff Taylor, a detailee from the Justice Department on the Judiciary Committee, be accorded the privileges of the floor during consideration of S. 2, the Education Opportunities Act, and during votes in relation to the bill.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2000

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it adjourn until the hour of 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, May 4. I further ask consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of S. 2 under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, at 9:45 a.m. the Senate will resume consideration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, with debate on the Abraham-Mack merit pay amendment to begin immediately. Following the consideration of that amendment, Senator MURRAY will be recognized to offer her amendment regarding class size. Votes are expected throughout the day. As usual, Senators will be notified as these votes are scheduled. As a reminder, the Senate will not meet on Friday in order to accommodate the Democratic retreat.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JEFFORDS. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the

Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators BYRD and GRASSLEY.

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

The Senator from West Virginia is recognized under the previous order.

MIKE EPSTEIN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President:

God hath not promised
Skies always blue
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the laborer,
And light on the way,
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy
And undying love.

Mr. President, I have quoted this bit of poetry because I am thinking of Mike Epstein, Senator WELLSTONE's long serving legislative director. Mike Epstein, I heard only yesterday, is gravely ill. I know that he is facing this news with the same gallant, noble, straightforward courage that has marked his entire life. I know because I employed him as a member of the Democratic Policy Committee staff when I was the majority leader of the Senate, and I have seen him in action. I have seen him at work many times.

Mike is a man of lively humor, great heart, idealistic vision, and pragmatic understanding. Despite many years on Capitol Hill, he has never lost his sense of purpose in public service. He has never lost his desire to make the world a better place in which to live. At the same time, he has accumulated the political savvy and acumen to rapidly size up a piece of legislation, weigh its strengths and weigh its weaknesses, and then deliver a succinct analysis on the spot. He has been a fixture on the Democratic bench during debate on many bills.

It seems it was only yesterday that I saw him back here on this bench. I always made it a point to speak to Mike as I went by. It may have been a week ago, it may have been 2 weeks ago, perhaps it was 3 weeks ago, but he was there. And, as I say, just like always, it was as though it was only a few hours ago.

He has shepherded a generation of inexperienced legislative assistants through the arcane minuet of amendment trees, tabling motions, and cloture votes. In this respect, as in so many others, Mike has been outstanding in his commitment to the Senate, to its traditions, and in giving one's best to the Nation. What more can one do?

The Senate is, in many ways, Mike's enduring passion. Legislation is his obsession. He was a "policy wonk" before that phrase was ever coined. His

friends are legion in both parties, and outside the Senate as well as inside the Senate, and outside both parties as well.

Senator WELLSTONE and his staff are part of Mike's extended Senate family. I know that everyone is shocked, just as I was shocked yesterday, at this unexpected news and that all my colleagues join me in offering Mike strength and comfort.

It brings home the memory of that scriptural passage which says:

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Seneca once observed that "there is nothing in the world so much admired as a man who knows how to bear unhappiness with courage." As he bravely faces his toughest battle, Mike Epstein offers to each of us something further to admire and to cherish.

So tonight I shall go home, remembering Mike, sitting back there on that bench, looking at me, smiling.

I close with a short verse by Spencer Michael Free, "The Human Touch," which I believe best captures the warm and caring legacy of Mike Epstein's long and faithful service to the Senate:

'Tis the human touch in this world that counts,

The touch of your hand and mine,
Which means far more to the fainting heart

Than shelter and bread and wine;
For shelter is gone when the night is o'er,
And bread lasts only a day,

But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice

Sing on in the soul away[s].

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment until the hour of 9:45 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:03 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 4, 2000, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 3, 2000:

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

KATHERINE MILNER ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2006. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

GENERAL JOHN A. GORDON, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. (NEW POSITION)

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS	MARC B. NATHANSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS. (NEW POSITION)	TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2007, VICE BENJAMIN LEADER ERDERICH, RESIGNED.
MARC B. NATHANSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2001. (REAPPOINTMENT)	MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD BARBARA J. SAPIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE	THE JUDICIARY DENNIS M. CAVANAUGH, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE ALFRED M. WOLIN, RETIRING.