

Mr. JEFFORDS. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. COCHRAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO MOVE TO SUSPEND
PARAGRAPH 4 OF RULE XVI

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, in accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend paragraph 4 of rule XVI for the purpose of considering title IV of H.R. 4461, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, as amended on July 18, 2000, by unanimous consent. (The UC is as follows: That all after the enacting clause of H.R. 4461 be stricken and the text of S. 2536 with a modified division B be inserted in lieu thereof, and that the new text be treated as original text for the purpose of further amendment, and that no point of order be waived.)

At the request of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, because of the sudden death of the former mayor of Wilmington, Delaware, who was a close friend of mine, I had to return to Delaware today directly after the funeral for Senator Pastore. Consequently, I was necessarily absent for the roll-call votes on Senate amendments No. 3925 and No. 3927 to the Agriculture Appropriations bill. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on both amendments.

The high cost of pharmaceuticals in this country relative to the cost of the same drugs in nearby countries, such as Canada and Mexico, is a major irritant to many seniors struggling to make ends meet in the face of fixed incomes and high expenses for medications. Reimportation of drugs from foreign countries, although it may lower prescription drug costs for Americans, should not be permitted if it will jeopardize the health of this country's citizens. The potential effect of these provisions to reduce pharmaceutical research and development in the U.S. is an unknown but important factor. The controversy over these provisions serves to emphasize once again the need to expand Medicare to provide prescription drug insurance coverage for seniors and the disabled.●

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 5 minutes.

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

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to join some of my fellow Sen-

ators in remembering the extraordinary life and service of our friend and colleague, PAUL COVERDELL.

It is a somber day in the Senate Chamber, as we deal with this loss. PAUL COVERDELL served the people of Georgia with distinction for over 30 years. His passing leaves a significant mark on the many lives he has touched over his lifetime. On behalf of myself and my wife Annette, I offer my condolences to PAUL'S wife Nancy and his family.

Anyone who dealt with PAUL COVERDELL over the years came to respect him. He was honest, loyal, and dedicated to public service. It was these characteristics that PAUL brought to the table every day in his life. PAUL's vision as a legislator and commitment to the principles and values for which he truly believed were demonstrated time after time in this Chamber. His commitment to improving education in the U.S. sets a high standard for all public officials. His hard work in the Republican leadership and his vision of a prosperous future for all Americans deserves tremendous praise.

Personally, it was truly my privilege to know and work with PAUL over the years. We sat next to each other recently in the Senate, as can be seen.

He will be remembered as a dedicated American who gave much of his life in service to his Nation. I offer my thoughts and prayers to those close to PAUL in this difficult time, especially to his family.

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

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes as in morning business.

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I rise today to deliver some remarks upon the death of our beloved colleague, PAUL COVERDELL.

It is no exaggeration to say that the whole Senate is in a state of shock that we no longer have PAUL with us. Just last week, Senator COVERDELL was among us on the Senate floor debating legislation, visiting with us in the Cloakroom, speaking up in our weekly Republican conference. And now, only a short period later, he is no longer with us. To my knowledge, PAUL never seemed to have had any health problems. He certainly seemed fine last week.

My last remembrance of him is just how happy he was when we adjourned on Friday afternoon after we passed that landmark legislation repealing the death tax. I guess the fact that PAUL is no longer with us reminds us

all that we need to keep life in perspective.

I first met Senator COVERDELL when I was first campaigning for the Senate 2 or 3 years ago. From that first time I met him, I came away with a very powerful impression that he was a most sincere and decent and friendly person. In all my dealings with him in my year and a half in the Senate, that impression never changed. PAUL was always in a good, cheerful mood. He was always positive and upbeat. I never once saw him raise his voice or get angry at anybody. He was unfailingly polite and courteous at all times and to everyone. He was the quintessential southern gentleman and a delight to know.

In the Senate, we debate issues of great moment to our country: war and peace, the economy, education policy. I guess it is sometimes the little, personal, seemingly inconsequential gestures of friendship that one remembers. I used to sit next to Senator COVERDELL every week in our Wednesday Republican luncheons. I got to know PAUL that way, not only as a colleague but as a person. Every week PAUL would gently rib me for eating my main course before I ate my salad. Week after week he would comment on that. I think finally he just concluded that that was a peculiar habit of midwesterners.

I will always remember the smile and the twinkle in PAUL COVERDELL's eyes, and I won't easily forget him or my friendship with him.

PAUL, I am proud to have served with you. I am going to miss you. We are all going to miss you. You enriched this Senate, the State of Georgia, and the whole country by your service. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your wonderful wife Nancy and your family. May God bless you and keep you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes as in morning business.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I join my colleague from Illinois in paying tribute to our fallen colleague, Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

I have been in the Senate for 4 years and have worked with many colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I agree completely with Senator FITZGERALD: Senator COVERDELL brought to this floor a certain dignity and demeanor to which we all aspire. He was a person of good humor. I think it may be difficult for many people who follow the debates in the Senate to believe that a Democrat who believes very strongly in his party and a Republican who believes very strongly can be engaged in a hot debate on the floor of the Senate and then, as soon as the debate is over, meet each other in the corridor or the well or at another time and be friends. That was the case with PAUL COVERDELL.

We disagreed on many issues, but I never found him to be lacking a smile and always looking for some common ground where we might come together. The last conversation I had with him several weeks ago, he walked all the way across the floor to the Democratic side of the aisle and came right up to me. I was wondering what this could be.

He said: I need your help.

I said: What is it, PAUL?

He said: I want to try to secure a gold medal for Ronald and Nancy Reagan; will you help me?

I know he was from Illinois. I said: Of course, I will.

I signed onto it. That is the kind of person he was. As different as we might be politically, he was always trying to reach out and find some common ground. I think when we get caught up so much in the political debate and the furor here, we forget many times how important it is to have a person such as PAUL COVERDELL here to remind us time and again that after the debates are finished, we are all basically human beings trying to do our very best in the Senate.

I agree with my colleague from Illinois: It is hard to imagine that only a few days ago he was standing in the well and smiling and walking around as he always did as a member of the Republican leadership team and then stricken on Sunday, operated on on Monday and passed away. It is a sad day for the Senate.

I have noted, interestingly enough, today, as many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have come to the microphone, some have known PAUL COVERDELL for a long time. Some have known him in many different roles in life, some for a very short time. Everyone from both sides has a very positive take on what PAUL COVERDELL meant to each of us and meant to this institution.

It is a great loss, not only for the Senate but for the State of Georgia and for the Nation which he served in so many different ways so well.

I extend my sympathies to his wife Nancy and all his family and friends in this moment of grief. The Senate has lost a fine Senator. I am honored to have called him a friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues to pay tribute to PAUL COVERDELL. I have listened to a lot of tributes today. There have been so many themes, including cheerfulness, optimism, a welcome hand, no rancor, no bitterness. We all know that to be PAUL COVERDELL. I want that to mention one incident which, for me, encapsulates it all. It is going to be the incident that is defining for me. Whenever I think of PAUL, I will always

think of this incident, and I always will.

This outfit—the Senate—tends to be a little partisan. Over the years, it has become too partisan, almost as two armed camps, one over there and one over here. It is regrettable, but that is something that has occurred and evolved up here in the Senate.

Not too many years ago, I was in Atlanta, GA, speaking at an event. I neglected, as is a common courtesy, to tell Senator COVERDELL I was there. Sam Nunn was a Senator at the time. I didn't tell PAUL I was having an event in Georgia, his home State. I felt kind of bad about it. But like a lot of us, I kind of pushed it to the side and rationalized that it was not that important.

Lo and behold, at that same hotel, PAUL was speaking about three or four rooms away, and I heard about it. I said to myself: Oh, my gosh, MAX, how stupid you are; why didn't you tell him? How guilty I felt. Oh, my gosh, here I am in PAUL'S home State and he doesn't even know I am here. I am in his State and he is just down the hall. I thought: You blew it, MAX.

When I finished, I was walking out in the hall and PAUL happened to be coming up. He bounced up to me and said, "Hey, MAX, how are you? Welcome to Georgia. I hope you're having a good time."

That was PAUL—positive, upbeat, cheerful, with a smile and a good attitude and a gleam in his eye. That made me feel even smaller and more guilty, but it made me feel even better about PAUL. That is the PAUL COVERDELL I will always remember.

Mr. President, Wanda and I send our deepest sympathies to Nancy and the family. Life is fickle, unpredictable. There but for the grace of God go any of us. People with the personal qualities of PAUL COVERDELL are the ones we will treasure here. I know the people of Georgia will treasure the same qualities in PAUL COVERDELL. He was a great man.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed as in morning business for 4 minutes.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I join with all of my colleagues today in praising the life and celebrating the life and grieving the loss of PAUL COVERDELL. He was a friend and someone whom I trusted. I think we all trust each other here because we are family. But I had a special fondness and a special trust for PAUL COVERDELL. He was a man of tremendous integrity, directness, and modesty.

There are many instances over our time period together that come to mind. But one in particular is perhaps the most recent one. I had a matter that was of great personal concern to

me. It was an issue where he and I differed philosophically but where I needed his help in order to get my position heard. He agreed it should be heard, even though he disagreed with it. I went to him and asked him whether or not he might assist me in that process, and he said, "CARL, I don't agree with you on this issue, but this is a matter of great import for this country and your views clearly should be considered by the decisionmaker here. I am going to do everything I can to make sure that in fact those views are considered."

That said a lot about this man and about this place. Although we disagreed on an issue, he believed that the principle of having both sides heard was more important than the specifics of the issue. His integrity was indisputable and undoubted. We came to rely on him in so many ways. His background made him particularly able to make a special contribution to this Senate. He had great skills as a legislative craftsman and tactician. He, of course, had a wonderful background in the Peace Corps, and there were so many other ways he was able to contribute as a very special force in the deliberations on this floor.

PAUL COVERDELL rose to leadership in a very short period of time, which reflected the deep respect and regard that he had among his Republican colleagues. That special affection and regard was matched on this side of the aisle. The death of this very fine and gentle man is a terrible loss to the people of Georgia. I consider it to be a great loss to the people of Michigan and all of America, and a great personal loss to me as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments by my friend and colleague from Michigan regarding the death of our friend and colleague, PAUL COVERDELL.

Yesterday was a very, very sad day for the Senate. I was at this desk when the majority leader announced that PAUL COVERDELL passed away at 6:10 yesterday. Majority Leader TRENT LOTT was a very close friend of PAUL, as was I and many other Senators. This is a tough, trying time because we lost a very good friend and an outstanding Senator. It is sad to see the vacant chair right behind me that PAUL COVERDELL sat in. It demonstrates an enormous void his death leaves behind here in our body.

I had the pleasure of getting to know PAUL COVERDELL for the last 8 years. He did an outstanding job. PAUL COVERDELL was the type of Senator who would do any work assigned, and often times, work not assigned. He was the type of Senator who could enlighten the room, the type who could work with all Members and make things happen. He was the type of person who would be willing to take on tough tasks and always say yes, and

take them across the finish line. He was the kind of person you would want to have on your team at all times.

PAUL was the kind of person who really added a lot to this institution. It makes me proud to say he was my colleague. He contributed so much in so many ways. His death is an almost unspeakable loss for us, for the State of Georgia, and for the country.

He showed great leadership on a lot of issues, with a hallmark brand of analysis and execution that identified a challenge for our conference, pulled out all the views among our colleagues, and built consensus and success to the betterment of not just our party, but our country. For example, take primary and secondary education—something overlooked for many years. He focused on that in the last few years, and headed up a task force that cut across committee lines, seniority lines, and philosophical lines, to bring us together. He wanted us to do positive things to improve education across the nation. He successfully blended our different viewpoints together, and together we painted a vision on education that not only do many Americans support, but holds out real hope for change and improvement when it comes to educating our kids for the challenges of the 21st century. Further, many elements of his efforts brought along our colleagues across the aisle.

Or, take our war on drugs. Senator COVERDELL has worked hard with colleagues to address this challenge, here in the United States, and with the House and the administration to carry the fight overseas. In waging those battles, we came to realize that he was intense, he was serious, dedicated, and sincere. He was also successful, and many families today and in the future should be gratified in his success.

And these are just a few examples of the many areas where PAUL placed his tremendous energies. He was so involved in so many different issues, I even teased him last year. I said, "We are enacting all Coverdell legislation, all the time" because he had his name and fingerprints all over so many things were doing, because he was so proactive in trying to come up with positive solutions to challenging problems in education, or fighting the war on drugs here and overseas, or spending the country's money wisely, or returning the tax surplus to the people.

PAUL also didn't hesitate to join us in standing up on behalf of the Constitution, our system of checks and balances, of keeping the order we stand to defend. From the beginning to the end of his time in the Senate, rarely a day went by when he did not cast a thoughtful eye on the activism and activities of the executive, cognizant of the vision of our Founders who believed in a limited central government.

When you got to know him, you would discover that he had a real intensity, a keen curiosity to learn, understand, grapple with issues great and small. And he had such a great, conge-

nial working spirit that made all of us better, that built us all up. His personality was infectious, his energy was admirable, his thoughtfulness was considerable, and his friendship was valuable.

We want to let PAUL's wife Nancy know that she is very much in our thoughts and prayers. We are comforted by the fact and have great confidence in the fact that PAUL COVERDELL now resides in a wonderful mansion, eternally. Our sympathies and prayers go with Nancy, and to the Coverdell family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oklahoma for his comments. We celebrate the wonderful life of PAUL COVERDELL. I have a heavy heart, and I miss him. He was a great Senator. He contributed to this Nation in extraordinary ways.

He was a good friend to me, and a good friend to many others.

Yes, he was modest, self-effacing, encouraging, positive, and unifying—all of those things. But he was a courageous and positive leader for values that this Nation holds dear. He advocated them with such a winsome and effective way. We will miss him. I will miss him.

I say to the family and to Nancy particularly how sorry we are, and I express my sympathy. Maybe next week I will be better able to express my admiration and feelings for PAUL COVERDELL. I feel his loss deeply. So many of us do. I wanted to share those thoughts at this time.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

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

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

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the legislative business now before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. H.R. 4461, the Agriculture appropriations bill.

Mr. REID. Is there an amendment pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is none.

AMENDMENT NO. 3938

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. HARKIN, proposes an amendment numbered 3938.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of appropriated funds to label, mark, stamp, or tag as "inspected and passed" meat, meat products, poultry, or poultry products that do not meet microbiological performance standards established by the Secretary of Agriculture)

On page 25, line 11, before the period, insert the following: "*Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to label, mark, stamp, or tag as "inspected and passed" meat, meat products, poultry, or poultry products, under the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) or the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), that do not meet microbiological performance standards established by the Secretary".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this amendment clarifies USDA's authority to enforce standards for pathogens in meat and poultry products. These standards are essential to ensuring continued progress in producing safer products by reducing these pathogen levels in meat and poultry products. They are an important part of the new meat and poultry inspection system adopted in 1996.

This amendment only clarifies USDA's authority to enforce pathogen standards. It will not codify existing salmonella performance standards.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TAX RELIEF FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate passed legislation providing tax relief for married couples. We passed a bill that basically eliminates the marriage penalty tax for most married couples. The cost of the bill was \$55.6 billion over 5 years and over ten years. The cost of the bill was incorrectly reported in several newspapers despite the fact that on the floor of the Senate and in a press conference later, we stated clearly that the bill that we passed was a 5-year bill, and the cost of the bill was estimated by the Joint Committee on Taxation to be \$56 billion. You wouldn't know that if you read the New York Times.

In today's paper: "Senate Approves Tax Cut To Help Married Couples. Clinton Threatens Veto." That much is correct, but the next line says, "\$248 billion measure would aid even those who do not pay marriage penalty." I