

Somebody appreciates you. You may not realize it, but somebody is watching you. Somebody appreciates what you are doing. The people at the desk up there, somebody appreciates you.

So I just want to express that appreciation.

THE REAL STORY OF CHRISTMAS

Mr. BYRD. Now, Mr. President, we are just a few days from Christmas, a few days from the morning when millions of children tumble out of their warm beds, awaken their parents, rush to the family room, and look, with gleeful delight, at the bows, the boxes, and the bundles under the tree.

This is one of my favorite times of the year—a time of joy, a time of love, a time of family gatherings and warm memories.

I remember the Christmas presents waiting for me when I was a boy back there during the Great Depression in the hard hills of Mercer County in southern West Virginia. There was not an electric light in the house—no electricity, no running water, but there was an orange or a drawing book or a set of pencils or a set of water colors, or a geography book that I had been wanting.

My family did not have great material wealth, but we always had a wealth of love. The two old people who raised me, they are in Heaven tonight. They are in Heaven. We did not have fancy toys in those days. We celebrated the season for its true meaning: the birth of the Christ Child.

Now, I respect every man's or woman's religion. I respect their religion. If it is Moslem, I respect their religion. I can listen to the prayers of any churchman or any layman. I can respect them all because who am I? I am unworthy of God's blessings. I can respect them.

So my wife Erma and I have passed those lessons on to our children, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren.

In recent years, however, that meaning has been drowned out by a society that is focused more on the perfect gift or the latest gadget or the hottest-selling toy. Our attention is on store sales and Santa Claus rather than on the true meaning of Christmas.

Now, I am a Christian. I believe in Christ. I am not very worthy, but I believe in Him. I respect anyone who does not. I respect anyone who believes that He was, that He lived, He was a historic figure, He was a prophet. They may not believe He is the Messiah—I do—but it does not lessen my respect for others.

I will listen to them at any time. But I think all of us have to agree that this was a great event that happened that split the centuries in two, and the years that were before Christ are numbered, the years that are after Christ numbered differently. This was some, some happening. No matter what we believe or do not believe, it is still recognized by all that there was a man named Jesus Christ.

And so no matter what our religion, I think we ought to understand this was more than just an ordinary happening, more than just an ordinary man.

At its core, the season has not changed. Christmas will always be, to me, about a family that found no shelter but a manger, and also about a newborn child who would become, in my viewpoint, the Saviour of the world.

As Luke wrote in his Gospel:

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Good tidings. Great joy. How many people think of those words standing in the long lines of their local shopping malls?

I worry that too many of us, in the hectic pace of the modern world, have forgotten the true spirit of Christmas, have forgotten what this is really all about. They have forgotten the true meaning. The story of the birth of Christ has been overshadowed by the pressures and the strains of a commercialized holiday.

Families will spend hours at shopping malls, waiting in long lines, rather than in the company of loved ones or in a church or in a place of worship celebrating in song or prayer. They will become obsessed with purchases and the gifts they may receive. Children will meticulously craft the perfect list of toys and will worry that grandma will again, this Christmas, buy them another sweater that they will never wear. Sadly, the Christmas season has become the shopping season. A time for joy and spiritual reflection has drowned in the shallow waters of greed.

That does not need to be. We can return to the true meaning of Christmas. During this holiday, I urge all Americans to reflect on their families and their faith—whatever their faith—and to read the story of Jesus' birth in the Gospels. Look up into the night sky and pick the Star of Wonder that led the wise men to Bethlehem to offer gifts to the Christ Child. Join with family and friends to sing a Christmas carol, share a meal, and reflect on the blessings we have been given. Visit each other, one another's church or synagogue or whatever. Go join and visit and enjoy this season. Perhaps the materialism that has come to dominate the season will fade and we can begin to truly understand the great and glorious story of Christmas.

And so, Mr. President: 'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer

Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile:
"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar, a dollar"; then, "Two!" "Only
two?"

Two dollars, and who'll make it three?
Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice;

Going for three—" But no,
From the room, far back, a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loose strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a caroling angel sings.
The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said, "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?"
Two thousand! and who'll make it three?
Three thousand, once, three thousand, twice,
And going, and gone," said he.
The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not quite understand
What changed its worth." Swift came the
reply:

"The touch of a master's hand."
And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine;
A game—and he travels on.
He is "going" once, and "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that's
wrought

By the touch of the Master's hand.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey.

COMMENDING SENATOR BYRD

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, it is my honor to address you in the chair. Your remarks with regard to Christmas are ones that stir one's heart and feelings. I am the lucky one to be here this evening to hear you speak. I hope everyone across America has the sense of how you love this body, the great Senate, and the people we serve.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of West Virginia, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

There being no objection, the quorum call is waived.

The Senator from Nevada.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:11 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 9:37 p.m. when called to order by the President pro tempore.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to executive session and that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of the nomination of Michael Hammond to be the chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts. I ask that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD, and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination was considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Michael Hammond, of Texas, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Michael Hammond to be Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and I urge the Senate to confirm him.

Mr. Hammond is a distinguished composer, conductor, arts educator and scientist. His is the Dean of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, where he is also a professor of music and a faculty fellow in neuroscience.

Mr. Hammond is an excellent choice to lead the Arts Endowment. He is also one of the nation's leaders in the field of cognitive development and he understands the vast potential of the arts in early childhood education. I welcome his leadership, and I believe that he will be an outstanding chairman for this very important agency.

During the consideration of his nomination by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, I submitted a number of questions to Mr. Hammond. His responses are impressive and I ask unanimous consent that they may be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

QUESTIONS BY SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY FOR MICHAEL HAMMOND, NOMINEE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

1. Do you support the mission of the National Endowment for the Arts and believe that there is a federal role in support of the arts?

Yes. The Arts Endowment's mandate is to provide national recognition and support to significant projects of artistic excellence, thus preserving and enhancing our nation's diverse cultural heritage. This is a noble and essential national goal and I embrace it completely. I believe there are important aspects of this task that can best be performed at the federal level. If I have the opportunity to serve as chairman, I will work to advance the Endowment's mandate in every conceivable way.

2. Are there any circumstances under which you would support the elimination of the agency?

No.

3. Due to budget cuts and the impact of inflation, the NEA's spending power has been dramatically reduced. The decline in funding

has also reduced the agency's reach and impact. How do you view the current funding? Will you advocate for higher spending levels for the agency?

Although the Endowment's financial resources are limited, it has a national voice that I believe should articulate clearly and strongly the importance of the arts in enriching the lives and shaping the aesthetic taste of all Americans. It is now more important than ever that the Endowment make performances and presentations of the highest artistic quality accessible to our urban, rural and suburban communities.

The Endowment's financial capability is important both for the direct project grants it makes and for the matching money grants generated from other sources. I would advocate for spending levels that are more adequate in fulfilling the full gamut of the Endowment's goals. Should I have the honor to be the chairman, I would look for ways to stimulate more public and private support for the arts and arts education.

4. How do you think the Endowment should best balance its various programs which support the creation and presentation of the arts with providing broad access to the arts?

Each of these tasks is crucial and the balance between them, though difficult, must be reconsidered regularly. A full review of the Endowment's activities in both these areas (creation/presentation and broad access) would be a high priority for me. Further, I would pursue these goals nationwide in rural, urban and suburban communities, in close cooperation with state and local arts groups and educational organizations committed to the arts.

5. What do you think are the highest programming priorities for the agency?

In the days following September 11, in ceremony after ceremony, Americans turned to the arts, especially music and poetry, for expressions of our anguish over our human losses and for confirmation of our common commitments as Americans. It is essential that the Arts Endowment help provide opportunities for our citizens to experience works whose meaning transcends the momentary and speak to us as human beings, sharing one another's mortality and longing for beauty and understanding.

At the same time the Endowment must, I believe, work to create conditions favorable to our professional artists—conditions in which they will be inspired to fulfill their deepest artistic aspirations, encouraging all of us to understand ourselves and one another in continuously new ways. If I am given the opportunity to serve, I will also try to direct the Endowment's efforts toward enlivening the artistic culture of the nation from the ground up by strengthening all forms of educational activity in the arts, especially among the young. If there is to be a further flowering of our artistic culture in the coming years, it must begin by making the best achievements of our rich heritage a reality in the lives of our young people.

6. You have had an extremely accomplished career in music and music education. Do you have any thoughts about ways that the agency can develop or initiate programs for young children and the arts?

To ensure the artistic future of our country, I believe, today's children and those of generations to come must have the opportunity to learn by actual experience, the techniques of music-making, the skills of drawing, painting and sculpting, dance movement, poetry and other forms of writing, and the art of acting and play-making. Such experiences together with regular access to the finest art can stimulate a child's imagination, engage the intellect, create discipline, produce physical skill and enhance curiosity and joy. Few may become profes-

sional artists, but many will become grateful audiences for the arts. A richer artistic culture can be brought into being with consistent effort over time in this way.

Should I have the honor of serving as the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, I will explore how the agency can provide national leadership in promoting such hands-on educational programs in the arts for children from preschool through high school. The country has vast educational resources both public and private for this undertaking. These need to be surveyed, documented and enhanced.

It is my understanding that grants for arts education are now funded under two new Arts Endowment funding programs—Challenge America and Arts Learning. The state arts agencies also contribute very significantly to educational efforts in the arts, as do a number of private organizations and programs. The Endowment can advocate and promote models for cooperation among these groups and incentives for imaginative action.

From my own studies in neuroscience, I know there is a growing body of information concerning cognitive development among preschoolers showing their ability to discriminate clearly among musical sounds, visual colors, movements and language elements in a way that mandates programs of learning in the arts at very early ages. I would actively pursue this agenda and attempt to work closely with that growing body of scientists and educators throughout the world who are concerned with such early cognitive development.

7. How do you think the agency can best support K-12 education programs?

First, there must be an accurate assessment of the programs and institutions, both public and private, which are addressing the matter of arts education for school-age young people in each region of the country. Working with these groups and with the state and regional arts agencies, the Endowment can help to set goals for instruction and experience at each stage of a student's life, in each of the arts. The Endowment can encourage cooperative efforts among arts groups to get the job done. It is a challenging task that will require all our available institutional resources as well as a new level of aspiration from all quarters, including parents, schools, museums, community centers, performing arts organizations, church groups, Boys and Girls Clubs and many others. Much valuable work is already being done in many parts of the country. These efforts can serve as models for others.

I believe the Endowment can lead in certain aspects by initiating conversations, encouraging fine teaching, generating funding from corporations, foundations, private benefactors and arts support groups. It can assist and strengthen organizations that have valuable ideas but need assistance in initiating them. It can connect outstanding young artists to this effort, both as teachers and practitioners. Finally, through its general grants programs, the Endowment can increase access to outstanding performances and exhibitions so that at every stage of a young person's development, the arts at their best are regularly experienced.

8. How do you feel that the federal role of the Arts Endowment differs from the role of the state entities and local agencies? Do you feel that these roles complement each other well? Are there any changes that you would suggest for either the federal role, or the way the Endowment supports state and local initiatives?

If the opportunity to serve as chairman of the Arts Endowment comes to me, I will make it a high priority to become very familiar with our state and local arts agencies,

their leaders and the important work they do. I will explore with them ways in which their partnership with the Endowment can be strengthened and broadened. They have played a vital role in carrying out Challenge America and other important Endowment programs. Many of them have been extremely successful in promoting the arts in their own locales. I see them as already valuable allies for the Endowment, and I would hope that these alliances can be made even more productive for our citizens everywhere.

9. Do you believe that the Arts Endowment should actively pursue private funds to supplement its federal appropriation?

I understand that legislation gives the Endowment authority to accept private gifts and donations. I also understand that there is concern in the arts community that major fundraising activities by the Arts Endowment could compete with, and therefore, conceivably diminish the ability of arts organizations to raise the funding necessary for their survival. In the current economic climate, and following September 11, the issue of financial support for arts groups everywhere is especially serious. If I am confirmed, I would approach this matter carefully and in a collegial spirit.

10. Will you continue the agency's efforts to build partnerships and funding coalitions with other federal agencies?

I support efforts to form coalitions and partnerships with other federal agencies whenever these can enhance access for Americans nationwide to projects of artistic quality. Accordingly, I would examine the current inter-agency agreements that the Endowment has entered into over the years to see how these and other such cooperative efforts can help to preserve our national artistic heritage and increase the value of that heritage to our citizens, especially those who may be otherwise underserved.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Agriculture Committee be discharged from the consideration of the nomination of James Newsome, to be chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and his nomination to be a commissioner on the Commission; that the nominations be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements thereon be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

James E. Newsome, of Mississippi, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

James E. Newsome, of Mississippi, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the term expiring June 19, 2006. (Reappointment)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 607, 624, 647, 650, 651, 667, and 668.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that those nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements be printed in the RECORD, and the President be immediately notified.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Claude M. Bolton, Jr., of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Kathleen Burton Clarke, of Utah, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

THE JUDICIARY

C. Ashley Royal, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Harry E. Cummings, III, of Arkansas, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas for the term of four years.

Christopher James Christie, of New Jersey, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey for the term of four years.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Sean O'Keefe, of New York, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, vice Daniel S. Goldin, resigned.

ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brigadier General Donna F. Barbisch, 0000
Brigadier General Jamie S. Barkin, 0000
Brigadier General Robert W. Chesnut, 0000
Brigadier General Richard S. Colt, 0000
Brigadier General Lowell C. Detamore, 0000
Brigadier General Douglas O. Dollar, 0000
Brigadier General Kenneth D. Herbst, 0000
Brigadier General Karol A. Kennedy, 0000
Brigadier General Rodney M. Kobayashi, 0000
Brigadier General Robert B. Ostenberg, 0000
Brigadier General Michael W. Symanski, 0000
Brigadier General William B. Watson, Jr., 0000

To be brigadier general

Colonel James E. Archer, 0000
Colonel Thomas M. Bryson, 0000
Colonel Peter S. Cooke, 0000
Colonel Donna L. Dacier, 0000
Colonel Charles H. Davidson, IV, 0000
Colonel Michael R. Eyre, 0000
Colonel Donald L. Jacka, Jr., 0000
Colonel William H. Johnson, 0000
Colonel Robert J. Kasulke, 0000
Colonel Jack L. Killen, Jr., 0000
Colonel John C. Levasseur, 0000
Colonel James A. Mobley, 0000
Colonel Mark A. Montjar, 0000
Colonel Carrie L. Nero, 0000
Colonel Arthur C. Nuttall, 0000
Colonel Paulette M. Risher, 0000
Colonel Kenneth B. Ross, 0000
Colonel William Terpeluk, 0000
Colonel Michael H. Walter, 0000
Colonel Roger L. Ward, 0000
Colonel David Zalis, 0000
Colonel Bruce E. Zukauskas, 0000

REFERRAL OF THE NOMINATION OF JOSEPH SCHMITZ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Joseph Schmitz to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Armed Services earlier today, be referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs for not to exceed 20 calendar days, beginning January 23, 2002, and that if the nomination is not re-

ported after that 20-day period, the nomination be automatically discharged and placed on the Executive Calendar.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS TO REMAIN IN STATUS QUO NOTWITHSTANDING THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all nominations received by the Senate during the 107th Congress, first session, remain in status quo notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate and the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, with the following exceptions: PN850, Otto Reich, to be Assistant Secretary of State; PN983-4, Colonel David R. Leffarge, to be Brigadier General.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will return to legislative session.

AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING THE SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the sine die adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the Senate President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, and conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS 195, 196, 197, AND 198, EN BLOC

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the Senate to proceed en bloc to the consideration of Senate Resolutions 195, 196, 197, and 198, all submitted earlier today, that the resolutions be agreed to en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 195, S. Res. 196, S. Res. 197, and S. Res. 198) were agreed to en bloc.

(The text of the resolutions are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—S. 1178

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Calendar No. 88, S. 1178, be indefinitely postponed.