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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, November 22, 2002, at 11 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2002

END OF THE 107TH CONGRESS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I come to offer a few remarks today about the end of this legislative session. But of course, as is always the case when I have an opportunity to sit in this Chamber and listen to my colleague, Senator BYRD, I learn a great deal, and it is always a joy to do so.

I am going to be very brief. I have to make a speech to a convention at a

hotel near the Capitol in a few minutes, but I did want to say at the end of this session, and especially after the election of this year, something about what I believe is ahead of us.

We have just gone through an election. That is the exercise that the late Claude Pepper used to describe as the miracle in the U.S. Constitution. He said every second year our Constitution provides that the American people

are able to grab the steering wheel of this country and decide which way to nudge our country, which direction to provide America. So that is what the elections are about.

This election is described by some in the press as dispiriting and disquieting to those of us on the Democratic side of the aisle. To me, it is not dispiriting or disquieting. I wish the election had gone differently, but over two cen-

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MARK DAYTON, *Chairman*.

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turies we have elections that change and move and in other ways affect this democratic system of ours—this system of democracy, I should say—and I accept the election. The election described a government by the American people as a government that is very divided. The House of Representatives they chose is about 51 percent Republican, 49 percent Democrat. The Senate they have chosen is about 51 Republican, 49 Democrat. Of course, there is a special election in Louisiana in December that may alter that.

The point is the American people have chosen a very closely divided government. That is not dispiriting to me at all.

We are able, those who come to this passion and this public calling, to look ahead to great challenges in our country and understand with the President and with the cooperation of Democrats and Republicans, we have to work together to meet these challenges. The change in the Senate from a Democratic majority to a Republican majority is not much of a change, after all, because it simply moves a couple of seats around. It is now 51 to 49 instead of 50 to 49 to 1.

The fact is, in order to get things done to meet the challenges we face in America, we must find ways to work together. The art of this democracy working is through compromise. There are some who come here and decide to say, here is what I believe and I will not move from that point in the compass. I will not accept anything less than that which I believe today, on Wednesday.

That is not the way to get things done. We will be best served as we meet significant challenges ahead if we, the President and all in the Senate, understand we serve the same master; that is, the American people. And we want for this country the same thing: To do well, to grow, to prosper, to be safe, to be secure.

Much of the agenda we work on, especially on the Democratic side of the aisle, is an agenda that is almost timeless, the things people sit at the supper table in the evening and talk about, as they have supper together as a family. These are the things we have worked on for decades. Questions that a family asks: Do I have a good job? Does dad or mom have a good job? Does it pay well? Does it offer job security? Do grandpa and grandma have access to decent health care now they have reached their declining income years? Are we sending our children to schools we are proud of? Are our children entering a schoolroom door that is the best we can make it? Do we live in a safe neighborhood, free from crime? Is our country safe? Is the security of America safe? These are issues the families care about and are issues we work on in the Congress and the Senate.

There are some who come to public service with a very critical message of our country; it is the easiest thing in the world. It takes no talent at all. I

could demonstrate it in 2 minutes. The easiest thing in the world is to take a flaw in our system and hold it to the light and say, look at this, isn't this ugly? Look at this imperfection, isn't it ugly? Yes, it is a flaw and an imperfection and there are many in our great country.

But that is not the norm in America. We have industries that spring up looking at our imperfections. We have television programs that entertain the American people with other people's dysfunctional behavior, and they get great ratings. But it is not the main of what America is about. It is so easy to give the negative side. I am tempted but I will not; in 2 minutes I can recite the awful things about our country. We have people who are professionals doing it on radio and television and in politics every day: Look how awful this place is.

It is not awful at all. This country is a country born of the courage and blood of patriots. It is a country that survived the Civil War. It has overcome a depression; beat back the forces of Hitler, Nazism. It is a country that has done what no other country has done. It has built the strongest economic engine for growth and opportunity for people in the world. It has split the atom, spliced genes, cloned animals, inventions too numerous to mention. It is a country that had people build airplanes and learn to fly them, had people build rockets and go to the moon and walk on the moon. Along the way, it cured smallpox and polio, invented the telephone, the television, the computer.

It is a strong country with a resilient people, people who live in communities and help each other, who care about their kids, care about their future. Gregg Easterbrook wrote "America the OK." I like the title—and the book. I like the title because it describes a different attitude about America, "America the OK." That book came out some while ago but came out at a time when, as is usually the case, there were so many voices talking how awful things were in America.

There is not a better place on Earth to live. We are lucky to be Americans. We are lucky to be alive now.

When I mention the challenges ahead, first and foremost is a national security challenge. That is an awesome challenge. There is no question that the September 11 tragedy that befell our country and killed so many innocent American citizens reminds all this is a big, troubled world in many respects and national security is very important, as is homeland security. We must find ways to work together in a big, free, and open country, to provide some assurance of security for the American people. We must do that without diminishing the basic civil liberties that exist in our Constitution for the American people.

This discussion about a national identification card, about a database in which they will data mine all the infor-

mation about people's lives to find out if there is somebody doing something untoward, that is not the way to approach providing security for our country, by diminishing the basic civil rights in our country.

We face this very significant threat from Osama bin Laden, who apparently still lives. I might say, in the early part of this year I was in Afghanistan, I flew from Tajikistan-Uzbekistan to Baghram Airbase in Afghanistan, myself, Senator DASCHLE and others. Flying over the mountains of Afghanistan, preparing to land at Baghram, I looked down at the hills and understood deep in those caves were terrorists led by Osama bin Laden plotting the murder of innocent Americans by crashing airplanes into the World Trade Center. You understand especially more than ever when you look on the mountains that we cannot ever be oblivious to what is going on in the rest of the world. We do so at our peril. What happens in other parts of the world is of significant interest to us.

So national security is very important. I don't think there is any division, any partisanship, on that issue. We care about this country. We care about its security. We care about the men and women who wear its uniform proudly in the armed services.

In addition, the issue of national security, another part of security that is important is economic security for our country because all we can become in this country relates to having the economic engine that provides people opportunities so people can work, have jobs that pay well, with security, to build the good schools, send your kids to good schools, and provide health care for grandma and grandpa and do the things that make this a great place in which to live. That economic security and all of the attendant issues dealing with this economy are also very important.

I am proud to be part of a caucus in the Senate that says, here are the things we think we need to do to strengthen our country and provide opportunity to people in this country. Not handouts, opportunities.

There are times when people are down and out and have a tougher time with it, when it is important for a country to say, let us help you up. But the most important element of what we are about is to provide opportunity. There is no social program in America as important as a good job that pays well. That is what represents the basis for providing for a family and providing opportunity in the future.

This is a big old world, with 6 billion people; about half of them have never made a telephone call; 2.5 billion live on less than \$2 a day; 150 million children are not in school.

It is a big, difficult, challenged world in many ways, and we are enormously blessed to live here, right here, in this great democracy. We come from different parts of our country, different backgrounds, different philosophies, to

arrive here amidst 100 seats in the Senate. None of us owns a seat here. We are here as a matter of privilege—privileged to represent those who sent us here from our home States.

When we come to this Senate and in public policy engage in debate, there are some who look at that debate and say: Look, isn't that awful. Debate has broke out in the Senate.

I remember one day reading the Washington Post and one of the critics some number of years ago said—talking about some very aggressive debate in public policy here in the Senate:

This has just degenerated into a dispute about principle.

I thought to myself: Well, I hope so. That's why I came here—about principle.

Debate is what best serves the American people. The old saying: When everyone in the room is thinking the same thing, no one is thinking very much—that is a very important thing for us to remember here in the Senate. We will best serve the cause of our country's future and best serve the American people by continuing to be aggressive about that which we believe for the future of this country; by standing here, offering ideas that represent the approaches we believe will advance America's interests.

The next session of Congress, both because of national security and also economic security issues, will be a very difficult Congress. There is no question about that. But it will not be made more difficult by me wanting to see the other side lose. I want America to win. And this country wins when we best serve this country's interests by not wishing others to lose, but offering the best ideas we have and hoping that they will engage us in a way that selects the best of all the ideas offered in the Senate to advance this country's interests.

My fervent hope is that the next couple of years will be years of accomplishment in which all of us together can think we have done a good job in a troubled time for this country; in the face of threats—terrorist threats, national security threats—we have still advanced the interests of this country, even while keeping this country safe; advanced the interests of people who work for a living and want education, good schools, they want health care. They want the things that make this a good life, as well, here at home. If we do that, at the end of 2 years I think we will have accomplished something very significant for this great country of ours.

I thank the Senator from West Virginia for his indulgence as well. I saw by his papers he is intending, perhaps, to visit with us today a bit about Thanksgiving, and what a perfect, appropriate subject, the week prior to Thanksgiving.

I will yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I want to just take off on a word that the Sen-

ator spoke, the Senator from North Dakota. I will not detain him. I know he has to be somewhere, but he spoke about privilege, that we ought to be thankful; that this is a privilege. He referred to a privilege. I want to tee off that word, "privilege."

Also, I must say before the Senator leaves that I still have not come up with the right word when I am thinking about that Greek—it was not Aristides, it was not Alcibiades, but I will come up with it. But it was another word. It will come to me. I am still worrying about it.

But on this word "privilege," let us think, if I may suggest for a little while, about what a privilege it is—what a privilege it is to be an American, a person born in this country of whatever background, or a person who has emigrated to this country and been accepted as an American citizen—what a privilege that is.

I am not thinking about Afro-Americans or Italian-Americans or Greek-Americans or Anglo-Saxon Americans or anything—we have too much of these hyphenations. I am not much on hyphenations. I don't go around talking about my being an Anglo-Saxon American—but I am proud of it. I know other individuals in this country are proud of their heritage, and they should be. They should be proud that their ancestors came from Africa or their ancestors came from England or their ancestors came from Germany or their ancestors came from Ireland or from Poland or the Middle East or wherever. They ought to be proud of that. But I don't go around saying I am an Anglo-Saxon-American. I am proud of being a descendant of an Englishman who came to this country in 1657—but I am an American, that's the thing—of whatever lineage it may be.

It may be from the subcontinent of Asia. It may be a Persian. It may be an Iranian. It may be an Iraqi. Or it may be an Indian from India, where they have that beautiful Taj Mahal, at Agra.

But I am an American. What a privilege that is. Do you remember what Paul said? Paul, who was earlier Saul, but he persecuted the Christians and he came to be named Paul, the great Apostle. He and Silas—I believe it was Silas—they were arrested and they were beaten. But when the Roman centurion or the Roman officer heard that Paul was a Roman, he sent word: Don't—don't strike that man anymore. He is a Roman.

Being a Roman was something, in those days of Biblical history. It meant something very special, being a Roman. Don't strike him. Don't flog him anymore, he is a Roman, a Roman citizen.

The distinguished Senator from North Dakota who just addressed the Senate has a deep appreciation for the privilege of being an American. And, on this day when we are about to adjourn the Senate, and in thinking of a day that is coming soon, Thanksgiving Day, we should be grateful and prayer-

fully grateful, for being an American; grateful for this land of ours; grateful, privileged to be an American—privileged.

Let me now refer to the Mayflower Compact. The Mayflower Compact, adopted on November 11—ha. What is that day in our time? The old Armistice Day, the day on which my mother, my angel mother was buried. She died of the influenza the night before Armistice Day.

My mother—and may I say to my brother, who is 90 years old and living in Wilkes County, NC, today, I would almost imagine that he is listening to the Senate—"debate." He is listening to us on the Senate floor today. That's my brother. I don't know that he is, but I would wager he is. He is 90 years old. He listens to the Senate debates.

May I say, if he is listening: Our mother died on November 11, the night preceding. I don't know whether it was before midnight or after on that night. Just as I don't remember whether Caesar crossed the Rubicon before midnight or after midnight on January 11, in the year 49 B.C. I don't remember that. But in any event, isn't it interesting that the Mayflower Compact was drawn up on November 11, 1620, and Governor Bradford makes this reference to the circumstances under which the Compact was drawn up and signed—this is William Bradford. He said this:

This day, before we came to harbour, observing some not well affected to unity and concord, but gave some appearance of faction, it was thought good there should be an association and agreement, that we should combine together in one body, and to submit to such government and governors as we should by common consent agree to make and choose, and set our hands to this that follows, word for word.

In The Name of God, Amen,

In The Name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith . . . Having undertaken for the Glory of God.

Are you listening?

Having undertaken for the Glory of God.

Do I hear that a judge in this land has said to take that monument to the Ten Commandments out of your Statehouse? Read it. It is in today's papers—or yesterday's—where a judge who wears his robes of justice, said remove it.

He should visit my office and see the words of the Ten Commandments all over the walls there in that public place—the Ten Commandments.

How could we come to a place like this in America, this wonderful land of ours, this land in which it is a privilege to be born, or to become a citizen, to live, to serve, to die in this land of ours, where we can be privileged, how could that judge—how could any judge—say: Remove those words, the Ten Commandments? Was that the kind of judge, was that the kind of interpretation of the Constitution—I wonder if Governor Bradford had that in mind. I

wonder what he was thinking about when he referred to God.

Let us hear it again. This is what the Mayflower Compact said:

In The Name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James.

King James was King of England from the year 1603 until the year 1624, I believe.

By the way, that Bible, the King James Version, was authorized at Hampton Court in 1604, and it was first published in 1611—the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Let me say it again. This is what the Mayflower Compact said. This is not what some misguided judge may have said about the Ten Commandments. This is not some misguided judge who has misinterpreted the Constitution, in my judgment. But who am I? But I am a citizen—not a Roman citizen. I am an American, “privileged,” in the words of Senator DORGAN, to serve in this land, to work in this land, and to live in this land.

Here is what the Mayflower Compact said.

Hear me. Hear me now. This is the Mayflower Compact.

In The Name of God—

I am going to go out to meet Him soon. Abraham lived to be 170. Isaac was 180. Jacob lived to be 147. Joseph lived to be 110. STROM THURMOND is going to be 100 in just a few days. I am 85 today. But we can't be here always. I am going out to meet God.

Here is what the Mayflower Compact said. It was drawn up by those rugged, brave people on that ship as they prepared to get off that ship and step on the stormy shores—the rockbound coast of Massachusetts—

In the name of God—

Let us listen today as we prepare for Thanksgiving in this Year of our Lord, 2002.

In The Name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, [et cetera] Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, in the Honor of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first colony in the northern Parts of Virginia; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually in the Presence of God and one another . . .

I think it means and of one another— . . . covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid; And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience. In WITNESS whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod this eleventh day of November, in the year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth and of Scotland, the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini, 1620.

There it is. That is the Mayflower Compact.

Today, on Thanksgiving, let us be thankful to the same God referenced in this Mayflower Compact. Let us be thankful we are Americans, that we live in America, that we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave, that we live in this land which has been so wonderfully blessed by the God of Hosts, the Creator. Let us be thankful to Him.

Great God, our king.

And the names that followed were: Mr. John Carver, Mr. William Bradford, Mr. Edward Winslow, Mr. William Brewster, Isaac Allerton, Myles Standish, John Alden, John Turner, Francis Eaton, James Chilton, John Craxton, John Billington, Joses Fletcher, John Goodman, Mr. Samuel Fuller, Mr. Christopher Martin, Mr. William Mullins, Mr. William White, Mr. Richard Warren, John Howland, Mr. Steven Hopkins, Digery Priest, Thomas Williams, Gilbert Winslow, Edmund Margesson, Peter Brown, Richard Britteridge, George Soule, Edward Tilly, John Tilly, Francis Cooke, Thomas Rogers, Thomas Tinker, John Ridgdale, Edward Fuller, Richard Clark, Richard Gardiner, Mr. JOHN Allerton, Thomas English, Edward Doten, Edward Liester.

There you have it, the Mayflower Compact and all the names of the signatories.

Then there was Thanksgiving Day, an annual national holiday in the United States, celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. It originated in the autumn of 1621 when Plymouth Gov. William Bradford invited neighboring Indians to join the Pilgrims for a 3-day festival of recreation and feasting in gratitude for the bounty of the season. By the end of the 19th century, Thanksgiving Day had become an institution throughout New England and was officially proclaimed as a national holiday by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. The traditional feast of turkey and pumpkin pie has since become an indigenous part of the national culture. Traditionally celebrated on the last Thursday in November, it was changed by act of Congress in 1941 to the fourth Thursday of that month. Canada first adopted Thanksgiving as a national holiday in November 1879, and it is now celebrated annually on the second Monday in October.

That has reference to Thanksgiving Day, again, referring to Plymouth Gov. William Bradford who, in the autumn of 1621, invited the neighboring Indians to join the Pilgrims for a 3-day festival of recreation and feasting in gratitude for the bounteous season.

So on Thanksgiving Day let us remember those colonial forbears of ours, let us remember Plymouth Gov. William Bradford, who recognized that day of thanksgiving and whose name I referenced earlier in regard to the Mayflower Compact.

(Mr. DURBIN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. BYRD. So, Mr. President, I want to spend a few minutes just being

thankful. The change in party control is but a small shift in the wind compared to the gale forces that have blown in the past. It does not compare to war, to acts of terror, the upheavals in the strategic balance of power. I will live through that again, if I live, if the Good Lord so blesses me.

Today, as the Senate attempts to conclude its work for this session, one can almost smell the turkey roasting.

Tomorrow, if the Good Lord willing—in the Book of James it says: Don't say you will go here or there tomorrow, and you will buy this and that, or you will visit this city or that tomorrow; but say: If the Lord wills.

The Book of James.

So tomorrow, if the Lord wills, my wife and I hope to visit the Giant store over in McLean. And I can see the lines in the grocery stores. They are long. And the carts are full, as families prepare for the feast, for the feast to come next week: Plump turkeys, deep red cranberries—my wife is the best when it comes to fixing that cherry pie and the cranberry dressing, and all these things—rich pumpkin pie filling, sweet whipped cream, crisp green beans, flour and spices for baking—all are fond reminders of the season of Thanksgiving.

This year, travel is expected to rebound, after the scares of last year, as families reconnect more strongly. The Thanksgiving feast, the epitome of family tradition, is back, more precious, more appreciated than ever.

The Nation, too, feels stronger. Our economy may be weaker, but we are more aware of ourselves as a nation of Americans, as citizens of one land, rather than an eclectic mix of communities with little connection to each other.

As a nation, we feared the sniper who stalked the National Capital Area just a few weeks ago. As a nation, we pulled for those coal miners.

I know the Presiding Officer of the Senate today, the distinguished Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, whose ancestry goes back to the great country of Poland, does not go around saying: I am a Polish American. He says: I am an American. He is proud of his ancestry. I have talked with him about it. But he does not remind me every day that he is a Polish American. He is an American, just, as I said a little earlier, I am an Anglo Saxon American. But I do not go around talking about it. These hyphenated Americans, I am not too high on using the hyphen in that respect. We are all Americans.

In any event, as a nation, we feared that sniper. And as a nation, then, we pulled for those miners. And the Senator from Illinois knows about the coal miners of that State, as I know about the coal miners of West Virginia.

As a nation, we pulled for the miners who were trapped underground in Pennsylvania. As a nation, we followed the hunt for terrorists. We mourned for the victims of terrorist acts committed around the world.

We now know the feeling of wearing a target on our backs by virtue of the

passport we carry. It is a new feeling for many Americans; not exactly a pleasant one, but if it is a burden of our citizenship, we wear it with pride.

The flags that have flown in yards nationwide since September 11, 2001, are still flying in our minds and in our memories, in our hearts.

Our military, with the National Guard and Reserve forces, is more unified this Thanksgiving. All are under the strain of extended callups and deployments but all are working together. They are not weekend warriors, they are not sunshine patriots versus regulars, but they are full-time professionals, operating under the shadow of war, pushing hard to extend security across the globe. I am thankful for their effort.

I am reminded of the words of Thomas Paine, who wrote, on December 23, 1776:

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands in NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

Now, Mr. President, as I share my turkey and dressing with my dear Erma and with my daughters and sons in law, grandchildren and great grandchildren, I will offer a prayer to each of the Nation's men and women in uniform and their families. As we dine, they are flying, they are steaming, driving, and standing guard over our Nation's liberty. They are on the front lines of the war against terrorism.

Their families are gathering around tables that are not as full as they should be. Some of the chairs will be vacant. The circle of smiling faces will be incomplete.

This year especially we ought to remember and be thankful to them and to God for their effort. We should remember and give thanks for the efforts of our Nation's veterans. They and their families have also sacrificed for our Nation. Their families have sacrificed. Their wives have sacrificed. Their children have sacrificed. Their parents have sacrificed. Their brothers, their sisters, their kinsmen have sacrificed.

In this year even more than ever, we will remember the firemen, the policemen, the lifesaving crews who have performed so heroically during the crises of the past year and more. As terrorism struck our homeland, as anthrax filled our Federal buildings, as a sniper took aim at innocent people going about their everyday business, these first responders rose to the challenge. People are alive today because of their efforts.

In addition to their everyday duties, the local and State police, the fire departments, the public health departments, the hospitals, the ambulance crews, all are planning how they might best respond to a major terrorist attack, whether it comes in the form of conventional explosives or chemical, biological, or even nuclear weapons.

Their diligence at this task may make the difference for all of us in the future. They, too, will have my prayers this Thanksgiving.

Those of us in the Senate family should remember in our prayers the men and women who gave their lives on September 11, who gave their lives for us. There was a fourth plane, and some noble men and women on that fourth plane decided among themselves that they were going to die, but they decided that that plane, while it would carry them to their death, that plane would never complete its mission. Its mission, we understand, was this Capitol.

So we Members of this body, the members of the Senate family, the pages, the security people here, the Chaplain and his staff, our staffs, may all give thanks on that day for those brave men and women who knew they were going to die, who took phones and called their loved ones and said, for the last time: I love you. But they concluded among themselves: We will die that others won't die. If one could write the chapter, if one could have been there, they gave their lives and brought forth their sacrifices. Who knows? Who knows? Those eagles up there that from time to time must scream would not be there today.

That plane, that fourth plane, went down in Pennsylvania, the State in which that Philadelphia Convention was held, out of which came the Constitution and this great constitutional system that we know about.

So it is a daunting task when we think about the settlers who thanked Providence for seeing them through a difficult first year. It is a daunting task to carve a homestead out of the wilderness thousands of miles from anything familiar. One could not drive to the hardware store to purchase lumber and nails and shingles and windowpanes. You could not plug in or charge up labor-saving tools such as power saws and nail guns. No, each log had to be cut with an axe, dragged to the site and lifted by hand—not by an electric crane—and placed.

Each shingle for the roof had to be planed for more wood; each stone for the foundation and the chimney had to be dug up and hauled to the site. And while the home building was going on, the fields had to be cleared. The fields had to be planted; the fields had to be tended. Game had to be hunted and cured, or there would be no food for winter, let alone for a Thanksgiving feast.

So in this year of our Lord 2002, we gather in warm houses with our loved ones, each house a glowing lamp of civilization in an increasingly hostile world. It is a different kind of wilderness that surrounds us now, a forest of threats from unfamiliar places with unfamiliar names that press in from all sides. But for a day we can easily push our nagging fears aside and find comfort in the warm bonds of family affection.

As we work together, polishing the silver, setting the table, and preparing and serving the delicious food and talking to the little ones, the little grandchildren, and to little puppies, like Trouble over at my house and Danny over at my daughter's home, and washing the dishes, we share in life's greatest gift—our families.

I would like to close with a poem. I am still looking for that Greek name. It has slipped my mind.

The poem is "Home, Sweet Home":
Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home;

A charm from the sky seem to hallow us there,

Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met elsewhere,

Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

An exile from home, splendor dazzles in vain;
Oh, give me my lowly thatched cottage again!

The birds singing gaily, that came at my call—

Give me them—and the peace of mind, dearer than all!

Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

I gaze on the moon as I tread the drear wild,
And feel that my mother now thinks of her child,

As she looks on that moon from our own cottage door

Thro' the woodbine, whose fragrance shall cheer me no more.

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

How sweet 'tis to sit 'neath a fond father's smile,

And the caress of a mother to soothe and beguile!

Let others delight 'mid new pleasure to roam,

But give me, oh, give me, the pleasures of home.

Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

To thee I'll return, overburdened with care;
The heart's dearest solace will smile on me there;

No more from that cottage again will I roam;
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home!

God bless our homes, and God bless the sweet land of liberty, America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, God bless America, and God bless Senator BYRD and what he has meant to this institution, and for serving in this institution, the Congress of the United States, for over a half century.

We have had the privilege of again having one of the great insights into American history as seen through the prism of Senator BYRD's observation after a half century of American politics and American history.

When I was a Member of the other body, the House of Representatives, one of the great delights I had was to

sit at the knee of Congressman Claude Pepper, a former Senator. He was a walking political history book. And along with that delightful personality, you could learn so much just listening. Of course, he was always a great delight. The Senator who presides and I both had the pleasure of being with Claude Pepper. So often I would hear when he would take what he would call his "boys"—those members of the Rules Committee—on a trip and those younger Members of Congress—younger by one-half and sometimes two-thirds the age of the venerable Claude Pepper—could not keep up with the energetic pace he kept on those congressional delegation trips.

And so, likewise, it has been such a privilege for me that I have now had the opportunity to come here to the Senate and sometimes to sit at the knee and learn from the senior Senator from West Virginia.

For what you have given to all of us—the particular interests and affection you have shown to the new Members of the Senate in the 107th Congress—we are all so very appreciative to you.

Again, thank you for your words today in commemorating this time of Thanksgiving that so many of us in our own way will say a little prayer of gratefulness for this blessed land of which we have the privilege of being citizens.

Mr. President, I rise today to again give another one of my speeches about my favorite little agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, before the distinguished Senator proceeds, if he would allow me to interrupt him for a comment.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I yield to the Senator for that purpose.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator for his kind words of praise. But let me say some good words about him. That is why I have sought to interrupt him. The Senator has come to the Senate and brings with him a marvelous background of knowledge—knowledge of space, space flight, and our explorations into space. He is not by any means as long in his experience in this great country as I am. I can remember when Lindbergh flew across the ocean in 1927, I believe on May 9. When he launched that flight in the Spirit of St. Louis, the New York Times had a headline, if I remember, that said Lindbergh flew across New York City—or perhaps it was Nova Scotia—at the "tremendous" speed of 100 miles an hour. That man, when he flew across the ocean—sometimes 10 feet above the water, sometimes probably 10,000 feet above the water—he had a payload of about 5,500 pounds; he had about five sandwiches, and he ate a half of one on his way across the water. That was a lonely man.

But now this man from Florida, who graces this Chamber, flew in space at the tremendous speed, I would imagine, of about 18,000 miles an hour. So as we

in high school used to talk about that flivver—there were not many flivvers in that day. A few automobiles were owned by high-ranking officials in the coal mining community, and they spoke of that automobile coming down Sofia Mountain at the speed of a mile a minute. Here is this man who has come to us and has flown at the tremendous speed of 18,000 miles an hour. He has also brought with him a deep respect of the Constitution of the country, a deep respect for this institution.

I thank God, as we near Thanksgiving Day, for pioneers like this man, Senator NELSON of Florida. He is a pioneer in space. We have thankfulness to him and other men like him, such as the Presiding Officer who comes from Illinois; they both came over from the other body. So many of us came from the other body, and so many of us, I am sorry to say—especially those who have come lately—seem to think this body should be another House of Representatives. I should not get started on that.

But I thank the distinguished Senator, my dear friend, for his kind references to me and the context in which he made those references. I hope I can live up to his faith and his accomplishments. I thank him for the Senator he is and the American that he is as we near Thanksgiving Day in a land for which we have so much to be grateful.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his kind words. Whenever he is so gracious to me, as he just has been, I think myself undeserving of those kind words.

I look around this Chamber and see the places that people who have really shown courage and devotion to duty and to country sit, a place like over there, Senator INOUE, a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor; a place like over there, Senator MCCAIN, a prisoner of war who withstood those horrors for over 6 years; a place like over there for Senator CHUCK HAGEL, a distinguished veteran of Vietnam; a place like over here, the seat of Senator JOHN KERRY, the holder of the Silver Star from Vietnam; or that seat right there, the occupant of which will be leaving us at the end of this Congress, a triple amputee from Vietnam, Senator MAX CLELAND, who has overcome so much and yet who has the greatest attitude of any Senator in this body. These are the heroes, and there are many more, both men and women, in daily acts of courage. I feel very privileged to be a part.

NASA'S FISCAL YEAR 2003 BUDGET AMENDMENT AND A NON-PARTISAN NASA

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I have been making a series of speeches about NASA, and I rise again today to speak about this little agency. It is a favorite agency of mine, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Last week, the White House submitted a budget amendment to its 2003

budget request for NASA. The budget amendment, which also retools NASA's 5-year budget plan, amounts to a watershed point for NASA.

In this budget amendment, the administration has requested a significant change in its 2003 NASA priorities. Instead of funding a program to replace the space shuttle, this amendment seeks to scale back funding for the space launch initiative to a more realistic development time line.

This budget amendment, in my opinion, signals a revamping of NASA's integrated space transportation plan. The new plan incorporates the space shuttle, a new orbital space plane, and technology for future reusable launch vehicles into one comprehensive plan to provide for the advancement of human space flight. It is about time we had such a plan, and I applaud the administration's efforts to move in this direction.

The new plan includes an increased shuttle launch rate to better meet the research needs of the space station. Under this new budget plan, both the shuttle and the station programs will be funded on a much more sustainable and long-term level, while also seeking to develop a new orbital space plane. This new spacecraft would be used to provide astronauts regular access to the international space station without always needing to rely on the aging space shuttle fleet.

The new budget plan provides for a much-needed infusion of cash to start to provide for space shuttle safety upgrades and infrastructure repairs and modernization. These repairs and improvements will help us fly the shuttle much more safely through the middle of the next decade and possibly even longer.

This funding is a welcome reprieve for the neglected and decaying human space flight infrastructure that is literally falling apart at NASA centers around the country.

The new budget plan also responds to the concerns of a new study. This study, called the ReMAP study, concluded that the space station in its currently planned form would not be able to conduct even a minimum level of science research to call it a science program.

NASA's 2003 budget amendment seeks to fix some of these concerns by providing additional funding to increase the research capabilities on-board the space station. I welcome this decision. I have been into the mockup of the space station at the Johnson Space Center, and the capability for science, for research, is there if we can have the crew members who can be dedicated to the research while in orbit.

With this budget amendment, I am pleased with the administration's restructuring of NASA's budgetary priorities for fiscal year 2003, and I congratulate administrator Sean O'Keefe. In this budget amendment, the administration, with Administrator O'Keefe,