

for his work in the Senate, and realized how I missed his company.

He gave us all comfort that day, and the words he spoke about the late President could be said for Jack Danforth as well. I quote: "He was not consumed by himself."

I believe Jack Danforth has demonstrated that he is a man of great diplomatic skill who has always put the needs of his nation first. He is well suited to be our ambassador to the United Nations.

Thank you.

Mr. WARNER. I rise today in support of the nomination of former Senator James Danforth to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. I can think of no person better qualified to fill this critical position during the war on terrorism.

Senator Danforth is a true statesman, and is one of my closest friends over my 26 years of service in this Chamber. During this time in the Senate, our friend was a valued colleague and an even more valuable servant of the people of Missouri. He was first elected in 1976, 2 years before I came to the Senate, and served 18 years in this body. The fact that he was elected to three consecutive 6-year terms from the "Show Me" State of Missouri illustrates his remarkable wisdom and his ability to listen to his constituents in deciding important issues of the day.

After leaving the Senate, our colleague remained in service to his country, chairing a committee that reviewed the Federal response to the Branch Davidian activity in Waco, TX. More recently, Senator Danforth served as special envoy to the Sudan—an area of the world experiencing a particularly difficult and tragic humanitarian situation. In this capacity, he continued to demonstrate the compassion and goodwill that we became so familiar with in this body.

Senator Danforth left the Senate to answer a calling to the Episcopal priesthood. Even while he served among us in the Senate, our colleague volunteered on occasion as a pastor at the National Cathedral, where my own uncle served as rector in St. Albans Parish nearly three-quarters of a century ago. I was baptized and confirmed there on the Cathedral close, and was married at a chapel of that Cathedral just this past year. Senator Danforth and I not only were close friends; we shared a special bond of affection for that great Cathedral, which played such an important role in both of our lives.

And most recently, our good friend did such a magnificent job officiating in that same Cathedral at the funeral of President Ronald Reagan. Hearing our colleague's voice at that historic and difficult occasion gave comfort to each of us who were humbled to attend that ceremony. He did us proud; and we expected no less.

Now our dear colleague opens the next chapter of his exemplary career in public service. In these most difficult

of times, when our relations with our allies are so critical to our fight against a new enemy, I am confident that our good friend will carry himself with the same distinction—the same wisdom and thoughtfulness—that he demonstrated, over the years, next to us, in this very Chamber. Mr. President, each of us, as Americans, is fortunate that our colleague will once again be by our side in this critical public role.

I wish our dear friend all the best in his important new post.

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, I am advised there are no other Senators here wishing to speak on the nominations. I am authorized to yield back time on both sides of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of John C. Danforth to be Representative of the United States of America to the General Assembly, to be Representative with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Representative to the Security Council of the United Nations, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed, en bloc.

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LUGAR. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 5 minutes as in morning business.

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

NOMINATION OF PETER W. HALL

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, in a few minutes, we will be considering the nomination of my good friend, Peter W. Hall, for a seat on the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Peter will come to the Second Circuit with an extensive and wide knowledge of the law. In addition, this nomination comes with the strong support of a large bipartisan group of Vermonters.

Jim Douglas, the Governor of Vermont, offered Peter's name to the President as the nominee for this seat, and both Senator LEAHY and I support his nomination.

My constituents also believe Peter will be an outstanding judge on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Vermont has been proud to provide to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals a line of excellent judges to serve on that bench. That is a prestigious bench. I have the utmost faith that Peter will continue this line of excellence during his service.

I am a bit melancholy, though, as Peter will be filling the seat opened by the passing of my close friend, the late Fred Parker. Judge Parker left some big shoes to fill, both literally and figuratively, but Peter is the ideal candidate to accomplish this task.

Peter will bring a proper judicial temperament, strong values, and an exceptional judgment to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. I believe these all come naturally to Peter through his upbringing in Vermont. I know Peter will serve in the Vermont tradition of prudence and fairness.

I recommend that my colleagues support his nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF JACK DANFORTH AND THE CRISIS IN SUDAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I know we will be moving to other business in a few minutes. We have completed voting on Senator Danforth's nomination, but I wanted to come to the floor and speak to that nomination.

Senator Danforth has had a long and distinguished career in the Senate, and he has served this Nation capably, ably, and nobly since the time of that service. In particular, as has been mentioned over the course of the morning, he has served as President Bush's envoy to Sudan and has worked tirelessly to bring peace to that war-torn nation.

I focus on the Sudan because it is a country on a continent that means a lot to me personally. I was in the Sudan in September. I was there the year before that and the year before that and the year before that. I have been to Sudan many times and spent most of my time in the south of Sudan, a war-torn nation with 2 million people who have died and 5 million people displaced by an ongoing, still long-term civil war. I say "ongoing still," and I say that with the qualification that because of Senator Danforth's commitment, his noble service, we are much

further along that road to having a long, established peace as we look to the future.

It has not been an easy mission. Senator Danforth, in spite of it not being an easy mission, has made huge progress. We are much closer to ending that terrible conflict of the civil war that has been ongoing now for over two decades than we were before Senator Danforth became involved.

On June 11, the United Nations Security Council endorsed the peace process and committed to taking those steps outlined to assist the parties in implementing a final comprehensive peace package once the agreement itself is reached, and that is real progress.

During my trips to Sudan, I had the opportunity to not go as a U.S. Senator—in fact, I have never been in the country as an official U.S. Senator—but as part of a medical mission group where I have had the opportunity to interact with the Sudanese people from many different tribes in the south of Sudan.

I have had the opportunity and the blessing—blessing for me because of the understanding it gives me—to have treated patients with war injuries. In fact, even in late August, early September of this year, I treated a patient who suffered a gunshot wound to the upper part of his leg. I treated that injury. And the time before that, I treated a patient who stepped on a landmine. There are still landmines throughout southern Sudan. We are making real progress on that issue.

But today, as the Sudan works toward a settlement, with the progress that has been made, we face a growing humanitarian emergency that was not thought about a year ago at all, and even today we are struggling to put the spotlight on and the purpose on—and it is not entirely a separate issue, but it is a separate issue from the traditional thought about civil war: north versus south, black versus white, or Muslim versus Christian, all the ways people have thought about a civil war in the past. This crisis is a relatively new one. It is the direct result of the actions taken by the government in Khartoum and their proxies, the government-supported militias against the Fur, Zaghawa, and the Masaalit peoples of Darfur. Members of this body have spoken to this issue over the last several days. We need to speak a lot more about this crisis.

Government-sponsored militias systematically attack African Muslim villages but leave Arab Muslim villages untouched. Government planes—and these planes are Antinov planes. I do not know how many there are, but they are government-sponsored, government-owned planes that historically have bombed indiscriminately in the south. In fact, they have bombed the very church and hospital in southern Sudan where I go each year.

These same planes seem to be bombing indiscriminately in this Darfur region, and these are government-owned

planes. Crops are burned and wells are being poisoned, irrigation systems destroyed, houses are burned, and then the earth is left scorched and barren, and the population is being decimated.

There is an estimated population of about 6.5 million people in Sudan, and as many as 2.2 million people have been directly affected by this crisis. More than 1 million people have become displaced.

That is such a dry word. What does “displaced” mean? It means they had a home, and they had to leave that home and struggle to make their way in other regions, not having their occupation, their job, their land they tilled before. This is 1 million people.

Mr. President, 158,000 people have fled to neighboring Chad, and more than 30,000 have lost their lives.

The World Health Organization recently reported an alarming reemergence of polio in Darfur, a disease that has not been seen in years. Should polio get a foothold there this autumn, the polio high season will see thousands of children who could be struck, and that means struck with paralysis or even worse.

At this point in time, we need to make sure—and it is our responsibility—that Khartoum understands there cannot be peace in the south at the same time they have an ongoing war—many people have used the word “genocide”—in the west, which is where the Darfur region is. War anywhere in Sudan will lead to war everywhere.

Khartoum agreed to a cease-fire on April 11. The cease-fire was renewed on May 22. This agreement committed Khartoum to disbanding the Jingaweit militias.

The agreement included a protocol binding Khartoum to allow humanitarian access. Jingaweit militias continue to ravage the countryside while aid workers are turned away. Until we get aid workers in to deliver aid, to shine the spotlight, to report back on the travesty, I see no end to this problem, and that is where the international community must step up.

Khartoum claims to have lifted travel restrictions but, at the same time, Khartoum still places obstacles to the delivery of aid. That aid, I am convinced, will flow if those channels are opened.

Khartoum places difficulties on obtaining visas for relief personnel. Khartoum restricts the movement of relief workers within Darfur. Khartoum places obstacles to clearing relief supplies through customs. Khartoum interferes with relief workers seeking to protect civilians from harm.

Khartoum's actions simply cannot be tolerated. Khartoum's actions will not be tolerated. The United States must respond. The world community must respond. We should continue to pressure Khartoum to see that the government will find itself increasingly isolated in the world community if it continues to block the delivery of aid and

relief, and that is food and health care supplies.

This administration has been working tirelessly over the last year to deliver aid to those in dire need in Darfur. Two more relief flights landed in Nyala last Saturday and Sunday, and a third flight was scheduled to land yesterday.

Since February of last year, USAID has done other things. It has dispatched plastic sheeting to build shelters for more than 160,000 people. It has provided 117,000 blankets, 2 water purification systems. The administration has provided 87,000 metric tons of food. The administration has devoted considerable resources and committed a great deal of political capital to assisting the southern Sudanese.

President Bush has played an active role in the peace process. We have engaged the United Nations and will continue to do so, to pressure Khartoum into ending its support for the militias in Darfur, to assist in the delivery of aid, and to rally the international community to come to Sudan's assistance. It is our responsibility. We must do it.

In closing, I do commend Senator Danforth for all of his work to help the people of Sudan. It has been tireless. It has been bold. He has done a superb job in the Senate and in all of his years of public service, especially in Sudan. I am delighted he has accepted and that we have approved his position at the United Nations. He is a great friend to us in the Senate and a great friend to the United States of America.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I am happy that the two leaders are in the Chamber because I wish to make an announcement to the Senate.

Previously, I had stated I did not think it would be possible for me to make the commitment that when the Defense appropriations bill goes to conference this year it would not come back with the provisions in the House-passed bill pertaining to the debt ceiling. I have had a series of conversations through the evening last night and this morning and I now believe I can commit that when we come back from this conference we will not bring back a bill that contains the provisions that were in the House-passed bill pertaining to the debt ceiling issues that we must face sometime this year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I compliment the distinguished chairman of