

in the Chamber on the 4th or the 3rd or the 2nd or the 1st or even tomorrow, the 30th of June. I compliment Senator BYRD in advance.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished friend, my longtime friend, the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. SPECTER, for his kind reference to me. I value his friendship. I value his views on the Constitution. I do, indeed, always.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank my colleague

A PATRIOTIC FOURTH

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this coming Tuesday is the Fourth of July. Two hundred and thirty years ago, in 1776, our Founding Fathers declared independence from Britain, establishing a nation on fundamentally new principles of government. Those principles, laid out in ringing tones in the Declaration of Independence and given flesh and substance in our Constitution, have stood us well for these last 230 years. That is 84,007 days, including leap years, and we are still going strong.

Already, one can see the red, white, and blue bunting decorating stores, and one can see the fireworks for sale in those places where they are permitted. People are purchasing picnic and barbeque makings at the grocery stores and filling the propane tanks that will fuel the backyard grills. Next Tuesday, the Nation's air will be filled with the sizzle and aroma of good old hot dogs and hamburgers, steaks and shishkebobs, and barbeque of infinite regional variety. Sweet, luscious corn on the cob may lay atop the grill, roasting in its own leafy wrapping. Picnic tables will groan under the weight of creamy potato salad—potato salad like they make in Tennessee—tart coleslaw, egg salad or macaroni salad. Cold slabs of watermelon—Mr. President, cold slabs of watermelon—and fresh cherries will tempt some to initiate seed spitting contests. It is hard to imagine a more all-American feast. Even Thanksgiving, with its formality and fine china, does not capture the American spirit in the same manner as a barefoot feast like a Fourth of July picnic.

And the entertainment, too, is all-American. In the morning, we line the sidewalks of countless small towns and communities to watch the parades of fire engines and floats. Small children ride on father's shoulders to get a better view, and dogs—yes, like my little dog—circle below, tangling leashes around legs as they bark happily at the passing show. We wave at bands and we wave at the beauty queens, too, and local politicians before heading home to go boating, fishing, swimming, or just visiting with family in the cool shade of a tall tree. Americans celebrate the Fourth outdoors.

In the evening, we gather after our picnics to listen to concerts and wait for the fireworks. The air now is filled

with whizzing acceleration followed by an anticipatory pause, then the bursting pop of the exploding sparks. We ooh and ahh and clap. We are, generally, filled with a pride and love of our nation on the Fourth of July. We feel patriotic—yes, we do—in a general and fuzzy sense—a patriotism borne of a full stomach and stirring martial music, tinged with the scent of black powder and wrapped in red, white and blue bunting.

This general sense of patriotism and this general sense of love of country is, of course, a good thing. We are the very fortunate few, just 299,062,710 or so of the world's 6,524,438,583 citizens as of June 25, 2006, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That is just 4.6 percent or so of the world's population. We live in a nation richly endowed by nature, generally temperate in climate, and sparsely populated, though that may not seem true to anyone seeking to leave Washington for the beach this weekend. For 230 years—yes, two centuries and two decades—America has expanded geographically, economically and intellectually, literally reaching the moon and the stars. We have made great discoveries in the sciences and in medicine. We look after our own and reach out to help others. Our Nation is far from perfect, to be sure, but I doubt that many of us would willingly trade it for another.

George William Custis wrote that "A man's country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle and patriotism is loyalty to that principle." I think he is only partly correct: patriotism is loyalty to that principle as well as to the homeland over which that principle governs. We love our Nation for all that it is physically, the collection of geography and peoples that we know and love.

But it is also the principles upon which our Nation was founded 230 years ago—principles to which we must always hold fast, lest they be eroded away.

Our Nation was founded on the principles of equality and the rights of man to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is the job of government to ensure and protect these rights, and governments should only be based upon the consent of the people, not some powerful elite. Those fundamental principles should never be taken for granted. Even after 230 years of hearing them, they are not tired, run-of-the-mill, banal, or ordinary. Most of the other 96 percent of the world's population does not enjoy the blessings of those principles. Much of the rest of the world's population must live in the shadow of fear. Their governments have greater power and fewer restraints, and need not pay much attention to public opinion or internal dissent. In too many nations, dissenters can be jailed or simply "disappeared" if they dare to raise their voices to question their government's actions or policies.

We are blessed to live under a system of government established to serve all of the people. Mark Twain wrote that "The government is merely a servant merely a temporary servant; it cannot be its prerogative to determine what is right and what is wrong, and decide who is a patriot and who isn't. Its function is to obey orders, not originate them." The orders that it is to obey should come from the people, and from a consensus of what constitutes the common good. That is rare in this world, a treasure to be guarded jealously.

Our Founding Fathers drafted our Constitution to defend individual freedom and to provide opportunity for all. It is a government expressly designed to balance power so that no one person can ever become a tyrant unless the people, in their foolishness or their apathy, allow it. Abraham Lincoln once said that "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

In his book, *Notes on Virginia*, Thomas Jefferson wrote that, "If once [the people] become inattentive to public affairs, you and I, and Congress and Assemblies, Judges and Governors, shall all become wolves. It seems to be the law of general nature, in spite of individual exceptions." We the people are the guardians of our own liberty.

Power and the trappings of power are as addictive as the strongest drug. When people in power come to believe that they know the interests of the Nation better than the people who are the Nation, and when people cease to listen to the people or to remember the folks back home, a dangerous situation is created.

The historian, Henry Steele Commager, said that "Men in authority will always think that criticism of their policies is dangerous. They will always equate their policies with patriotism, and find criticism subversive."

Each of us, as citizens of this great land and benefactors of our system of government, must serve as its defenders, against invasion from without, of course, but also against erosion from within. We must be prepared to criticize when government strays from our fundamental principles, when it ceases to be the servant of the people. In doing so, we must be prepared to be called unpatriotic. That is hard to do when we are fired up on barbeque and fireworks and patriotic music. That is hard to do when we have troops in the field and anxious families back home. But criticism is not unpatriotic. Far from it. When we speak up, we emulate our Founding Fathers, who were not afraid to spread criticism where it was warranted.

On the Fourth of July and on every day, Americans should feel patriotic in every sense of that word. We have every right to be proud of our Nation and our history. We Americans have every reason to look forward to a bright future, as long as we protect and

encourage the right of every American to express his or her views and keep this Nation on the track that has carried us so well for so long.

I close with a poem Arthur Nicholas Hosking, "Land of the Free." I wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July.

America, O Power benign, great hearts revere your name, You stretch your hand to every land, to weak and strong the same; You claim no conquest of the sea, nor conquest of the field, But conquest for the rights of man, that despoils all shall yield.

America, staunch, undismayed, your spirit is our might; No splendor falls on feudal walls upon your mountain's height, But shafts of Justice pierce your skies to light the way for all, A world's great brotherhood of man, that cannot, must not fall.

America, in God we trust, we fear no tyrant's horde; There's light that leads toward better deeds than conquest by the sword; Yet our cause is just, if fight we must until the world be free Of every menace, breed, or caste that strikes at Liberty.

America, home of the brave, our song in praise we bring—Where Stars and Stripes the winds unfurl, 'tis there that tributes ring; Our fathers gave their lives that we should live in Freedom's light Our lives we consecrate to thee, our guide the Might of Right.

Mr. President, I hope that all the Senate family will have a safe, joyous Fourth of July

THE BUILDING OF THE SHIP

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!
We know what Master laid thy keel,
What Workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,
In what a forge and what a heat
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'Tis of the wave and not the rock;
'Tis but the flapping of the sail,
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee,—are all with thee!

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Mr. BYRD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALLEN. 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. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

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

SECURING OUR INDEPENDENCE

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, as we all depart in celebration of our Declara-

tion of Independence, our secession from the British monarchy, let us, as Senators and as Americans, assess what should be accomplished to secure our independence and, most importantly, the ideals and the freedom that need to be secured, as was expressed in our Declaration of Independence, authored by Thomas Jefferson 260 years ago.

The people of America are the owners of our Government, and they expect us to do certain things. I hope when we return, after the Independence Day celebration, one of the first things we will recognize is we are a nation of laws, we are a nation of immigrants. We will recognize that at Monticello, Mr. Jefferson's home where there is always an Independence Day naturalization ceremony there, which is always so inspiring. For those of us who believe we should have immigration reform, that is how people should become citizens in this country—legally.

The American people have noticed our country has, for far too long, neglected to secure our borders. The first thing we need to do, when we get back, is to find the funds for border personnel, for detention center capacity, for a fence, for sensors. We need to make sure this is Nation of laws, and a Nation of immigrants, that has been built by immigrants, and improved by immigrants.—My mother is an immigrant, so I appreciate the value and the improvements and the promise of America that have been born by so many people who have come to this country from some other land.

But the American people expect us to do our job. The first responsibility of a government is security. And we need to secure our borders.

Secondly, dealing with independence, is our energy. We are far too dependent as a country on foreign sources of energy. We need to—and I think we can do it—help out not just short term but long term in a policy that has our country less dependent on foreign sources of energy. We need more production of oil and natural gas here at home. Some of it can be in deep waters far off our coast. I would like to share some of those royalties and revenues with the people in the States so they can share in some of the benefits while also making sure we have more oil and natural gas from this country.

For my Commonwealth of Virginia, on a bipartisan basis, our legislature, 2 years running, has passed a measure to allow the Commonwealth of Virginia to opt out of the moratorium or the prohibition of deep sea, deep water offshore exploration. Georgia may want another approach; Louisiana would take a different approach—but if a State were able to share in the royalties. For Virginia I would like to have one-quarter of those royalties go to colleges and universities; and it could be used for scholarships for young people who have attributes or desires to study and be proficient in science, in technology and engineering, where

there is such a great demand for people with those talents and skills in our country.

Then, I would take 50 percent and use it for transportation and roads. There are great needs for roads. And if we were getting hundreds of millions of dollars, 50 percent of it ought to go for transportation and roads and highways in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

And then a quarter of it would go to coastal communities, say, Virginia Beach, for example, that would probably use the money they get for sand or beach replenishment on our coast.

In addition to developing more oil and natural gas in this country, we also ought to recognize that we are the "Saudi Arabia" of the world in coal, and we ought to be using clean coal technology for electricity generation. Clean coal technology, in fact, can be used in a way that could be gasified to be like a natural gas and could be used as a fuel similar to diesel fuel.

Natural gas is so important for us for the manufacturing of everything from tires to plastics, to chemicals and fertilizers and forestry products. To be using natural gas for baseload electricity generation, as I have said, is like using bottled water to wash our dishes. It will do the job, but why would you want to use such a clean-burning fuel—which is so important for jobs and manufacturing jobs here in this country, as well as for heating our homes—for electricity generation when we can be using clean-coal technology?

We also ought to be using advanced nuclear technologies for electricity generation.

Beyond that, there are other advancements in technology. With nanotechnology, there are solar powers, solar photovoltaics, which makes more sense now and are much more efficient. There are lithium ion batteries. We can also grow some of our fuels, biofuels, particularly soy diesel. Ethanol in some areas of the corn belt makes a great deal of sense. But I think soy diesel as well as cellulosic biofuels also make a great deal of sense.

My colleagues, not any one of these will solve our energy dependence situation. But if we have diversity of fuels, and more of these fuels and more of this energy grown in America—explored and developed and produced in America for American jobs and American competitiveness and American security—that will improve this country's energy independence rather than having to worry about the whims of some mullah 8,000 miles away.

So let us resolve on this Independence Day week to find ways and actually adopt energy independence policies. We also need to recognize who the owners of the Government are; and that is the people. We ought to be working to lessen the burden, the tax burden, on working people, on families, on family businesses, and on family farms.