

recently, after his home State was hit by the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States, the distinguished Senator—a colleague of his has already spoken of that but I mention it here—Senator COCHRAN used his role as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations to advance legislation that provided over \$87 billion—that is “billion;” a billion is one dollar for every minute since Jesus Christ was born—Mr. COCHRAN provided over \$87 billion in supplemental Federal assistance to the States affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A country western artist once asked in song “where would we be without the love of a woman?” “Where would we be without the love of a woman?” Undoubtedly, the love and the support of his wife of over 42 years, Rose—I remember Rose—helped Senator COCHRAN achieve this great milestone. As I have risen to recognize the Senator, I also wish to salute Rose. She was a beautiful lady, very warm smile, Rose.

Again, I congratulate my colleague whose record in this Senate has been that of a true Christian gentleman and a man of genuine political humility.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I join my many colleagues today in recognizing this remarkable achievement of my longtime friend, THAD COCHRAN, who has crossed the threshold of casting 10,000 rollcall votes in the U.S. Senate. In the over 200-year history of the Senate, only 28 Senators have reached this historic milestone. THAD and I both are privileged to be 2 of the 28.

THAD and I were first elected to the Senate in 1978, and we are the only remaining Republican Senators of the class. He was sworn in 4 days prior to my taking the oath of office; and, consequently, he is senior to me. I have always dutifully acknowledged that seniority.

Colleagues have extolled his extraordinary record, and I shall not add further to his wonderful chapter of public service to Mississippi and our Nation.

I have, however, a most unique, unlike any other Senator, reason to have the highest regard for this wonderful man. For an extensive period in my life, over 20 years, I was a bachelor. There was a tragic loss of a life in our community—Belle Haven—of a man greatly admired and respected by all. I was privileged to have a friendship with this man. THAD helped his family and widow in the wake of that tragedy.

There came a time in the years that followed that loss when I said to THAD, you know, this widow is someone I admire greatly, could I be of help, for I am making little or no progress whatsoever in gaining her attention. Being very protective, he allowed he would—in his own good time—try to draw his friend’s attention to me. And I am so grateful today to have my extraordinary wife, Jeanne, who as you well know, loves you dearly.

Mr. BYRD. Hear, hear.

Mr. WARNER. I don’t know that I would be standing here today, given my wayward ways in life, had it not been for THAD COCHRAN and this wonderful lady who cares for me now. So, THAD, I wish you well. What the future holds for both of us remains to be seen. But I am proud to be counted among your most devoted friends.

As one describes you, I would say you reflect all the qualities a Senator should have—but foremost among them, is always your calm dignity. I yield the floor.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask to be able to address the Senate as if in morning business for up to 5 minutes.

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

Mr. ISAKSON. At the outset, let me say as a rookie in the Senate, I add and echo everything that was said about Senator COCHRAN. He is truly one to whom all of us who are new to this body should subscribe and hope in time we could equal his accomplishment.

#### PRAYERS FOR CONGRESSMAN NORWOOD

Mr. ISAKSON. I rise for a moment to ask all Members of the Senate to join me in expressing their concern, their hopes, and their prayers for Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD. Congressman NORWOOD, of Georgia, yesterday notified the House and the Senate that he would be returning to his home in Augusta.

A little over 2 years ago, CHARLIE had a lung transplant to try to correct a degenerative disease which he had had with him throughout his life. That transplant was successful and he returned to the House of Representatives and, as he always did, he represented the State of Georgia with courage, with dignity, and with tenacity.

Unfortunately, last year, cancer occurred in the lung and successfully was removed by surgery. But it has reappeared now in his liver. CHARLIE is fighting for his life.

His lovely wife Gloria is in Augusta with him, and his countless thousands of friends are there. But in this business that we go through in this Senate, there is always a time that all of us should reflect on the blessings we have, and that is the blessing of life. I pray now that the good Lord will look after CHARLIE and give him as much of that life as He possibly can.

I think it is also appropriate that we reflect a minute on how important his service in the Congress has been. We all know that domestically health care, affordability of health insurance, doctor-patient relationship is probably the singular thing the American people look to us to help solve. CHARLIE NORWOOD and his cosponsorship of Norwood-Dingell laid a platform for which

one day many of those problems will be solved. He has fought tenaciously for better health care, for better patient-doctor relationships, and a better relationship between the Federal Government and the providers of lifesaving health care around the country.

At this moment, while a champion of health care is in dire straits himself, I hope all Members will join me and pray that his recovery will be fast and swift and that God puts His blessed hand on his shoulder.

I yield the floor, and 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. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### CONGRATULATING SENATOR THAD COCHRAN ON HIS 10,000TH VOTE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I just want to say a word about my friend, THAD COCHRAN. What a terrific gentleman and fellow legislator he has been over the years.

When I have gone to him to work out an appropriations problem, particularly with regard to the 2004 hurricanes we had—and you will recall we had four hurricanes within the span of 6 weeks in Florida, and we so desperately needed that assistance coming in to FEMA—Senator COCHRAN was there ready to help.

Mr. President, if I could get Senator COCHRAN’s attention.

Senator COCHRAN, I am saying some good things about you, and I just want to say what a gentleman you have been to this Senator, particularly with regard to that time we had such difficulty in Florida during the 2004 hurricanes. When I came to you asking for appropriate help, you were there. And then, lo and behold, the next year is when you had your set of hurricanes, and it was my privilege to try to help return the favor.

You are a real gentleman, and passing the 10,000 vote mark is quite an achievement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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.

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

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

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, let me just say that when the distinguished majority leader is prepared to go forward or the chairman of the Appropriations Committee is ready to proceed to H.J. Res. 20, I will stand down. But I wish to take this opportunity to also commend my colleague, Senator COCHRAN.

It is truly amazing when someone has been here long enough to cast 10,000 votes. It means they have represented their State well, and it means they are indeed diligent because they are here doing their duty.

I have loved working with Senator COCHRAN. He has been the kind of person who has helped every State when that State needed it. And I hope he has 10,000 more.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 20, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 20) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 237

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 237.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the resolution add the following:

This division shall take effect 2 days after date of enactment

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 238 TO AMENDMENT NO. 237

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a second-degree amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 238 to amendment No. 237.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment strike 2 and insert 1

#### MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit at the desk and ask the clerk to report that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the joint resolution to the Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with the following amendment numbered 239.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 239

At the end of the regulation add the following:

This division shall take effect 5 days after date of enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 240

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 240 to the instructions of the motion to commit H.J. Res. 20.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment strike 5 and insert 4.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 241 TO AMENDMENT NO. 240

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a second-degree amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 241 to amendment No. 240.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment strike 4 and insert 3.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on Calendar No. 18, H.J. Res. 20, Continuing Funding resolution.

Robert C. Byrd, Sherrod Brown, Joe Lieberman, Pat Leahy, Patty Murray,

John Kerry, Barbara A. Mikulski, Dick Durbin, Ken Salazar, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Dianne Feinstein, H.R. Clinton, Mary Landrieu, Herb Kohl, Carl Levin, Byron L. Dorgan, Ben Nelson.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Republican leader and I have had many discussions about possible amendments to this important funding bill. The distinguished Republican leader has told me on several occasions it is very important that we arrange that there be amendments to this bill. I am doing my very best to try to work something out in that regard. I do not know how to say this again. He does not need to tell me again because he has told me so many times how important it is.

This bill was put together with bipartisan cooperation. The chairmen, their staffs, and the subcommittees have worked very hard on getting us to where we are now. We are in an unusual situation because this legislation, which is truly bipartisan—as was the minimum wage bill, as was the ethics and lobbying reform bill—is many degrees—many degrees—more important than that because this legislation funds almost every element of our Federal Government for the remainder of the fiscal year. It has to be signed into law by Wednesday, a week from today. It has to be. This bill allows us to complete last Congress's work and permit the new leadership on both sides of the aisle to begin to address the tasks involved in putting together the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills.

We are in the position we are in because we are in this position. It is not the first time. But I am confident, in my experience here, we have never had such bipartisan cooperation trying to work our way out of a difficult situation. It has not been easy. But we are where we are. I express my appreciation to Senator BYRD, his staff, Senator COCHRAN and his staff, and all their counterparts—the chairmen and ranking members—for helping us get to the point where we are. It is so important we do this so we can get on with the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills.

As I said earlier today in congratulating Senator COCHRAN on his 10,000th vote, we need to pass appropriations bills, not for the Republicans, not for the Democrats, not for the Senate, but for our country. We are going to do everything we can to do that. And I will continue to work with the distinguished Republican leader. I am sure I will hear from him in the next few days more than I want to on this subject. I am trying to work something out on the amendments, and I will do my best to try to work something out.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the opening statements of Senator BYRD and Senator COCHRAN, we go into morning business. Of course, that would also be after any remarks the distinguished Republican leader wants to make.

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

The Republican leader is recognized.