

Medicare Part D prescription drug program, caused by the Wall Street bailout driving up the deficit, driving up the national debt—some people will say: Oh my goodness, we have all those expenses, and then we have to give tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, but we want to balance the budget. Gee, how are we going to do that?

Obviously, we know how they are going to do that. They are going to cut back on health care, they are going to cut back on education, they are going to cut back on child care, and they are going to cut back on Pell programs. We just don't have enough money for working families and nannies. We are going to cut back on food stamps. We are surely not going to expand unemployment compensation. We have a higher priority, Mr. President: We have got to, got to, got to give tax breaks to millionaires. I mean, that is what this place is all about, isn't it? They fund the campaigns, so they get what is due them.

Amazingly enough, we have the CEOs on Wall Street and the large financial institutions that want to rescind or slow down many of the provisions—the very modest provisions—in the financial reform bill. I voted for the financial reform bill, but I will tell you clearly that it did not go anywhere near far enough, but it went too far for our Wall Street friends and their lobbyists, who are all over here. And for the hundreds of millions of dollars Wall Street spends on this place, they want to rescind, slow down some of the reforms there.

These people want to cut back on the powers of the EPA and the Department of Energy so that ExxonMobil can remain the most profitable corporation in world history while oil and coal companies continue to pollute our air and our water. Last year, ExxonMobil made \$19 billion in profit. Guess what. They paid zero in taxes. They got a \$156 million refund from the IRS. I guess that is not good enough. We have to give the oil companies even more tax breaks.

So I think that is where we are. We have to own up to it. There is a war going on. The middle class is struggling for existence, and they are taking on some of the wealthiest and most powerful forces in the world whose greed has no end. And if we don't begin to stand together and start representing those families, there will not be a middle class in this country.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

COMMENDING SENATOR BOB BENNETT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the retirement and the departure of my great friend, BOB BENNETT. Senator BENNETT and I have jointly represented the State of Utah for many years. We are close. During that time, we have worked together as partners, collaborators, but most of all

as good friends. BOB's presence in the Senate is going to be sorely missed.

Senator BENNETT is a lot of things. He is honest, he is thoughtful, he is knowledgeable. But more than anything else, Senator BENNETT is a fighter for the people of Utah. BOB has served with unwavering devotion to our State, its people, and its interests. Throughout his 18 years in the Senate, the State of Utah has been foremost in BOB's thoughts, and I don't believe he has made a single decision he didn't believe was in the best interests of our State and of our Nation.

Senator BENNETT is the son of Frances and Wallace F. Bennett. Wallace F. Bennett, we should all remember, was also a great U.S. Senator from Utah who served four terms between 1951 and 1974. I think that is accurate. BOB is also the grandson of Heber J. Grant, the seventh President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

After attending East High School in Salt Lake City, BOB graduated from the University of Utah, where he was elected the student body president and obtained a degree in political science in 1959. His first political job was managing his father's 1962 successful reelection campaign. BOB then spent several years working as a Mormon chaplain in the Utah Army National Guard before becoming a chief congressional liaison at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

After his time at the Transportation Department, Senator BENNETT moved on to a successful career in public relations. For over a decade, he presided over some of the most successful and high-profile public relations organizations in the country. He became well known for his hard work, his leadership ability, and his entrepreneurial prowess. This was solidified in 1984 when BOB was named the CEO of the Franklin International Institute, which is now known as Franklin Covey. Franklin Covey is now one of the premier personal and organizational effectiveness firms in the world. The products and services provided by the company impact literally millions of people every year.

But when BOB joined the company they had only four employees. During his tenure that number grew to over 1,000. By the time he left to run for the Senate, the company was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. It was at that time an already thriving corporation, a world leader in its industry, thanks in no small part to BOB's leadership. For his efforts, BOB was named Inc. Magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year for the Rocky Mountain region.

BOB was elected to the Senate in 1992 after a hotly contested Republican primary and a hard-fought general election. His father—once again, the great Senator Wallace F. Bennett—lived just long enough to see his son win an election and serve in the Senate for almost a full year. I know that must have been a great source of pride for the senior Senator Bennett and his family.

Over his 18 years in the Senate, BOB has continued to demonstrate sound

judgment and strong leadership. Republican Senators have considered him a trusted resource when it comes to strategy and policy. He has been a consistent resource for those who seek thoughtful answers to difficult political questions. For these reasons, among others, BOB has served on the leadership teams of our current minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, as well as his predecessor, Senator BILL FRIST.

While he is more well known for his quiet, contemplative demeanor, Senator BENNETT has always been an outstanding orator. He comes often to the floor to discuss various issues at length, rarely reading from notes and almost never skipping a beat. His contributions to our debates in the Senate have always been very valuable, and I think people on both sides of the aisle will acknowledge that and have appreciated the type of advocacy he has brought to the floor of the Senate—always courteous, always well thought out, always reasonable, and always, in my opinion, right.

As I mentioned before, I know few Senators who can match Senator BENNETT's commitment to the people he represents. Every single person in the State of Utah has benefited from the work of Senator BENNETT. One cannot ride on a train or drive on a freeway in Utah or avail oneself of so many other assets and attributes in Utah without seeing the results of Senator BENNETT's service in the Senate.

Our State has seen a lot of growth in recent years due to the expansion of our population and the fact that more and more companies have recognized that Utah is a great place to do business. Utah's infrastructure has for the most part been able to keep pace with the rapid growth, thanks in large measure to the work of Senator BENNETT.

I will miss working with Senator BENNETT to help the people of our State, but I will miss him more as a friend. BOB and his wonderful wife Joyce—and she has been a tremendous companion to him, tremendous helpmate to him over these years—have been married for 48 years. They have 6 children and 20 grandchildren. I know every one of them is proud of the great service BOB has rendered to his country and the Senate, and they should be. I too am so pleased and proud of my friend, Senator BENNETT, and I am certain that BOB will be successful in any endeavor he chooses in the future upon leaving the Senate.

BOB BENNETT is a wise counselor. He is a truly honest man. He cares not only for the people he represented but everybody in this country and many people throughout the world.

He lives his religious beliefs. Other than family, I can't compliment anybody more than that. He lives his religion. He is exemplary. He is one of the most thoughtful people I have ever known. I value his friendship and I

value his advice and I have valued it over these years that we have served together. He has always been a serious and productive leader who also has a tremendously great sense of humor. After all is said and done, he is a great father, grandfather, husband, and friend—just to mention a few.

BOB will be successful in whatever he chooses to do. He is a good man. I personally will miss him. I think everybody in the Senate will miss him, and I believe it is safe to say everybody in Utah will miss him as well—some more than others. Nevertheless, if they look at his record and they look at the things he has done for our State, for our people, they are going to thank God that BOB BENNETT was a Senator for 18 solid years. I personally thank the Father in Heaven for having him here as a partner to me, as a friend, and as somebody on whom I could rely and with whom I could counsel on some of these very earthshakingly important matters that come before our Senate.

I have such a great opinion of BOB BENNETT, I don't think even he has known—maybe not until today—how great that opinion has been. I think the world of him. I love him as a human being, and I wish him the very best, he and his family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I am embarrassed and humbled and gratified by the comments of my senior colleague, Senator HATCH. My wife has said, by virtue of our retirement from the Senate: It is a little like going to your own funeral. You are hearing all of the eulogies but you are still alive.

We, indeed, are planning a significant life and activity after the Senate. I will have more to say about that at some other time. But I want to express my gratitude to Senator HATCH for the kind words he has spoken, but more importantly for the relationship we have developed in the time we have served together.

We did not know each other very well prior to my running for the Senate. He was a Senator off in Washington; I was a businessman in Utah. We had little occasion to see our paths cross and become acquainted.

One of the things I will treasure the most out of my experiences in the Senate has been the opportunity to come to know ORRIN as a friend, as a dedicated legislator, and a role model and mentor. He has guided me many times when I needed some guidance. We have disagreed sometimes when that was appropriate given our particular positions on an issue or two, but always I have been able to look to ORRIN HATCH as a mentor, a friend, someone upon whom I could depend.

In the recent election when there were those who were suggesting that maybe ORRIN should distance himself from me for his own political benefit, I am gratified by the fact that he not only refused to do that but until the

very end did everything he could throughout the State to see to it that I was triumphant in that election.

It turned out I was not, as far as the convention is concerned, but elections and conventions are not the be-all-and-end-all of life. I will go on to other activities, but I will hang onto my friendship with ORRIN HATCH and continue my respect and love for him in the years to come.

I yield the floor and 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. FRANKEN. 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. FRANKEN. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

NEW START TREATY

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak once again about the New START treaty. Today I will talk about the New START treaty and the maintenance of a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent. That means maintaining and sustaining the nuclear weapons stockpile and delivery platforms; modernizing the buildings and equipment in the nuclear weapons complex; and supporting the experts and scientists who are involved in it.

I would like to preface my remarks by underlining the urgency for the Senate to ratify the treaty. How can it be that we do not have a treaty with Russia in place, along with its verification regime 360 days after the expiration of the original START treaty? That is more than 6 months after the administration submitted the treaty to the Senate.

The verification regime will provide crucial insight into Russian forces, insight that is degrading over time without the treaty in place. We need to ratify this treaty now.

For decades, our relations with the Soviet Union, and now with Russia, have been stabilized and made more predictable and cooperative through arms control agreements. How can it be that now, when Russia is no longer our enemy and yet not our ally, my friends across the aisle are refusing to move forward on ratifying a modest treaty that is critical for our national security?

If consideration of the treaty is delayed or blocked, it will make cooperation with Russia on national security interests much more difficult, if not impossible. Do you seriously believe that, if you block or reject the treaty, we will see Russia's continued cooperation with international sanctions on Iran? Are you not concerned that Russia will reconsider its prohibition on the sale of the S-300 anti-air defense

missile systems to Iran, as it did in September?

And why put the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program at risk? Senator LUGAR himself has warned that failure to ratify the treaty could imperil that enormously successful program in securing loose nukes.

If this modest treaty is blocked by the minority, I do not believe my friends on the other side will be pleased with the consequences.

Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to see negotiations with Russia on reductions in tactical nuclear weapons. I agree. That is going to be a difficult task under any circumstances. But as our lead negotiator Rose Gottemoeller said recently, there is zero chance of getting to the negotiating table with the Russians on tactical nuclear weapons unless we get this treaty ratified and entered into force.

It is also important to note that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been delaying consideration of the treaty for some time. Back in August, Senator MCCONNELL said, "The only way this treaty gets in trouble is if it's rushed." And Senator KYL told reporters that since it could be hard to get everything done before the November election, the Senate might need a lame-duck session to vote on New START.

The administration and Chairman KERRY deferred to those Republicans, but now those same colleagues are saying we can not do it during the lame-duck session. To them, I say, if not now, when? If we defer and delay further, we risk a collapse in relations with Russia, including the loss of their continued cooperation on the all-important Iran issue.

Now, the remaining major objection to ratification that Republicans have raised is not a feature of the treaty itself, but maintenance and modernization of our nuclear arsenal and complex.

There is bipartisan agreement that as our nuclear arsenal gets smaller through arms control agreements, ensuring that it remains safe, secure, and effective takes on added importance. From my perspective that is the fundamental justification for nuclear modernization. And I agree with Senator KYL, who emphasized in a floor statement, and I quote, the "direct link between nuclear force reductions and modernization of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex." Likewise, Senator MCCAIN has noted that, "as we move to reduce the size of our nuclear stockpile, this modernization effort becomes all the more important."

The Obama administration has made a serious commitment to nuclear modernization, and they have paired it with arms control. We have an extensive set of programs in place to retain confidence in the stockpile without testing. We are extending the life of our current nuclear delivery vehicles and studying, planning, and beginning