

is simply too soon to have a solid baseline planning number.

To be sure, the administration has been updating and revising its plans and estimates. Two weeks ago, it released an update to its section 1251 report with a revised, substantially higher cost estimate for both replacement facilities.

It also included yet more funding for the NNSA's overall budget. The administration has proposed an additional \$600 million in funding for fiscal year 2012 and an additional \$4.1 billion over the next 5 years. That brings the total for the next decade to \$85 billion. This both serves as a reminder that it is too early to have a fixed budget for the new facilities, and also strongly reinforces the administration's good-faith effort and commitment.

This brings me back to my fundamental point. I believe that support for the two new facilities can be sustained if we follow the path laid out by the Perry-Schlesinger Commission and pursued by the administration. This means balancing deterrence, arms control, and non-proliferation. The reality is that there will be significant questions and doubts about proceeding with such a costly modernization effort if it is not accompanied by equal support for arms control and non-proliferation.

There is no doubt that the existing facilities are aging and run down. There are even safety problems. Something must be done.

But if we are going to move forward effectively, modernization must be paired with arms control. And that starts with a modest first step—ratification of the New START.

Without that step, consensus will break down, the replacement facilities will once again lose a coherent mission, and we will be stuck with drift and controversy. The Perry-Schlesinger Commission recognizes that if it is not possible to sustain the budget requisite for both facilities concurrently, choices will have to be made.

They give powerful reasons for moving forward with the chemistry and metallurgy research facility before the uranium processing facility. That is the kind of tough choice we will have to make if New START is not ratified. Similarly, real uncertainty will creep into the consideration of just what sort of project the chemistry and metallurgy research facility should be.

Let me conclude by noting that the administration and the Democratic Congress have met every demand that many of my friends across the aisle have made on modernization. To my friends on the other side, I say, look at the demands in the December 2009 letter that you all signed. The administration has met each of those demands.

Look at what Senator KYL said in an op-ed in July: "A key test is whether the Democratic-controlled Congress will approve the president's nuclear modernization requests for the coming fiscal year." We passed that test, and as I mentioned earlier under an otherwise flat-lined continuing resolution.

In that same piece, and in his March letter with Senator MCCONNELL to the

President, Senator KYL indicated he wanted assurances that the fiscal year 2012 budget would include adequate funding as well. Although next year's budget is not due out until February, as I mentioned before, the administration has already announced what it will be requesting, and it will be another enormous increase in the weapons activities budget. Can there really be any doubt that the administration will move aggressively forward with modernization—if Republicans take the first modest step of ratifying New START now?

We have passed our key test. The administration has met the demands Senator KYL had laid out. Now the key test for Senator KYL and others is whether they will join us in ratifying the New START. If they don't do that now, the consensus that we have built will fall apart. Our national security will be put at risk. And we will return to the dark days when the nuclear enterprise was the subject of neglect and controversy.

The New START is a modest but very important step. It is one we should all take together, without controversy.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now stand in recess for the weekly caucus meetings, as provided under the previous order.

There being no objection, at 12:21 p.m., the Senate recessed until 4 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BENNET).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, first of all, let me express my gratitude to all of the colleagues and other individuals who have come to the Chamber at this moment.

Everyone who serves in Congress usually recalls two moments in their service: the maiden speech they give shortly after their arrival and their closing remarks. I can't recall what the first speech I gave as a new member of the House of Representatives 36 years ago was even about. I do, however, recall very vividly that there was no one else in the Chamber when I gave it. It was an empty hall early one evening with the exception of one colleague, Johnny Dent from Pennsylvania. He was sitting in his chair with his trademark dark glasses, listening patiently as I gave my knee-rattling, hand-shaking maiden address. Midway through the speech, he walked up to me and said quietly: You know, kid, it is not on the level. Well, that was my first speech before the House, and I am deeply honored that so many of you have come out to listen to my closing remarks today so I do not have to speak to an empty Chamber.

For more than 200 years, a uniquely American story has unfolded here in

the Chamber of the United States Senate—a fascinating, inspiring, often tumultuous tale of conflict and compromise, reflecting the awesome potential of our still-young democracy and its occasional moments of agonizing frustration.

For much of my life, this story has intersected with my own in ways that have been both thrilling and humbling. As a 14-year-old boy, I sat in the family gallery of this very Chamber watching as my father took the oath of office as a new Senator. A few years later, in 1962, I sat where these young men and women sit today, serving as a Senate page. John F. Kennedy was President and Lyndon Johnson presided over this body. Eighteen years later, in the fall of 1980, the people of Connecticut gave me the honor of a lifetime when they asked me to give voice to their views, electing me to serve as their U.S. Senator. For the past 30 years, I have worked hard to sustain that trust. I am proud of the work I have done, but it is time for my story and that of this institution, which I cherish so much, to diverge. Thus, Mr. President, I rise to give some valedictory remarks as my service as a U.S. Senator from Connecticut comes to a close.

Now, it is common for retiring Senators to say the following: I will miss the people but not the work. Mr. President, you won't hear that from me. Most assuredly, I will miss the people of the Senate, but I will miss the work as well. Over the years, I have both witnessed and participated in some great debates in this Chamber, moments when statesmen of both parties gathered together in this Hall to weigh the great questions of our time. And while I wish there had been more of those moments, I will always remember the Senate debates on issues such as Central America, the Iraq war, campaign finance reform, securities litigation, health care, and, of course, financial reform.

And when I am home in Connecticut, I see the results of the work we did every day. I see workers coming home from their shifts at Pratt & Whitney, Electric Boat, the Sikorsky helicopter plant—the lifeblood of a defense manufacturing sector so critical to our national security and to the economic well-being of my home State. I see communities preparing for high-speed rail and breaking ground for new community health centers. I see the grants we fought for helping cities and towns to build sustainable communities and promote economic development.

When I am home, I meet parents who, because of the Family and Medical Leave Act, don't have to choose between keeping their jobs and taking care of their sick children. I visit with elderly folks who no longer have to choose between paying for their prescription drugs and paying for their heat. I hear from consumers who have been victimized by unfair practices on

the part of credit card companies and who will no longer be subject to those abuses. And I meet young children as well who, through Early Head Start or access to afterschool programs, have blossomed academically in spite of difficult economic circumstances.

As proud as I am of the work that has made these stories possible over the last three decades, I am keenly aware, particularly today, that I did not do any of this alone. Until this last Congress, with rare exceptions, every major piece of legislation I authored that became law—including the ones I have just mentioned—had a Republican cosponsor as well as support from my Democratic caucus. So to my Democratic and Republican Senate colleagues who joined me in all these efforts over 30 years, I say thank you this afternoon.

I also want to thank, if I can, the unsung heroes of this institution—the Senate staff and my personal staff. It would be a grievous understatement to simply say they make the trains run on time. Without them, as all of us know, the trains would never leave the station at all—the floor staff, the cloakroom professionals of both parties, and the hundreds of unknown and unseen people who show up every day in this body to make this critical institution of democracy function. Without them, no Senator could fulfill his or her obligations to the American people.

Many of my personal staff and committee staff are present in the Senate gallery today. Neither I nor the millions of Americans whose lives you have enriched or whose burdens you have lightened can ever thank you enough. I only hope your time with me has been as fulfilling as my time with you.

Of course, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the people of Connecticut, whose confidence, patience, and spirit have given my life and its work deep meaning. As rich as our common language is, words cannot even come close to capturing the depth of my affection for and appreciation of the people of the State of Connecticut. For almost four decades—three terms in the House of Representatives, five terms in this Chamber—you have entrusted me to labor on your behalf, and I deeply thank you for that honor.

And lastly, my family. My parents are long since deceased, but their guidance, inspiration, and example have never departed. For the past 30 years, I have sat at this very same desk occupied by my father during the 12 years he served in this Chamber. His courage, character, and conviction have been a constant reminder of what it means to be a U.S. Senator. I thank my siblings and their children and other relatives for their enthusiastic support, particularly during the rough patches. From time to time, we all need the safe harbor of family at the darker moments. And to Jackie, Grace, and Christina, who have supported and inspired me every day: You mean more to me than

I could ever say in these few short moments. So come January, I am glad I will have more time to say it to you more often. And to Jackie in particular: You have been my anchor to windward in the rough and turbulent waters of public service. When it was the darkest, you were the brightest. I love you more than life.

As this chapter in my career comes to a close, a new chapter in the Senate's history is beginning. When this body is gaveled to order in January, nearly half of its Members will be in their first term. And even though I could spend hours fondly recalling a lifetime of yesterdays, this new Senate and the Nation must confront a very uncertain tomorrow. So rather than recite a long list of personal memories or to revisit video highlights of my Senate service, I would like to take this brief time, in these few short moments, to offer a few thoughts to those who will write the Senate's next chapter.

I will begin by stating the sadly obvious. Our electoral system is a mess. Powerful financial interests, free to throw money about with little transparency, have corrupted, in my view, the basic principles underlying our representative democracy. As a result, our political system at the Federal level is completely dysfunctional. Those who were elected to the Senate just a few weeks ago must already begin the unpleasant work of raising money for their reelection 6 years hence. Newly-elected Senators will learn that their every legislative maneuver, their every public utterance, and even some of their private deliberations will be fodder for a 24/7 political media industry that seems to favor speculation over analysis and conflict over consensus.

This explosion of new media brings with it its own benefits and its drawbacks—and it is occurring simultaneously as the presence of traditional media outlets in our Nation is declining. So while the corridors of Congress are crowded with handheld video and cell phone cameras, there is a declining roll for newspaper, radio, and network journalists reporting the routine deliberations that are taking place in our subcommittee hearings. Case in point: Ten years ago, 11 or 12 reporters from Connecticut covered the delegation's legislative activities. Today, there is only one doing the same work.

Meanwhile, intense partisan polarization has raised the stakes in every debate and on every vote, making it difficult to lose with grace and nearly impossible to compromise without cost. Americans' distrust of politicians provides compelling incentives for Senators to distrust each other, to disparage this very institution, and to disengage from the policymaking process.

These changes have already had their effect on the Senate. The purpose of insulating one-half of the national legislature from the volatile shifts in public mood has been degraded. And while I strongly favor reforming our campaign finance system, revitalizing and reha-

bilitating our journalistic traditions, and restoring citizen faith in government and politics, I know that wishes won't make it so.

I have heard some people suggest that the Senate as we know it simply cannot function in such a highly charged political environment; that we should change Senate rules to make it more efficient, more responsive to the public mood—more like the House of Representatives, where the majority can essentially bend the minority to its will. I appreciate the frustrations many have with the slow pace of the legislative process, and I certainly share some of my colleagues' anger with the repetitive use and abuse of the filibuster. Thus, I can understand the temptation to change the rules that make the Senate so unique and simultaneously so terribly frustrating. But whether such a temptation is motivated by a noble desire to speed up the legislative process or by pure political expedience, I believe such changes would be unwise.

We 100 Senators are but temporary stewards of a unique American institution, founded upon universal principles. The Senate was designed to be different, not simply for the sake of variety but because the Framers believed the Senate could and should be the venue in which statesmen would lift America up to meet its unique challenges.

As a Senator from the State of Connecticut—and the longest serving one in its history—I take special pride in the role two Connecticut Yankees played in the establishment of this very body. It was Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, delegates from Connecticut to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, who proposed the idea of a bicameral national legislature. The Connecticut Compromise, as it came to be known, was designed to ensure that no matter which way the political winds blew or how hard the gusts, there would be a place—one place—for every voice to be heard.

The history of this young democracy, the Framers decided, should not be written solely in the hand of the political majority. In a nation founded in revolution against tyrannical rule which sought to crush dissent, there should be one institution that would always provide a space where dissent was valued and respected. *E pluribus unum*—out of many, one. And though we would act as one, and should, the Framers believed our political debate should always reflect that in our beliefs and aspirations, we are, in fact, many. In short, our Founders were concerned not only with what we legislated but, just as importantly, with how we legislated.

In my years here, I have learned that the appreciation of the Senate's role in our national debate is an acquired taste. Therefore, to my fellow Senators who have never served a day in the minority, I urge you to pause in your enthusiasm to change Senate rules. And

to those in the minority who routinely abuse the rules of the Senate to delay or defeat almost any Senate decision, know that you will be equally responsible for undermining the unique value of the Senate—a value, I would argue, that is greater than that which you might assign to the political motivations driving your obstruction.

So in the end, of course, I would suggest this isn't about the filibuster. What will determine whether this institution works or not, what has always determined whether we fulfill the Framers' highest hopes or justify the cynics' worst fears is not the Senate rules or the calendar or the media; it is whether each of the 100 Senators can work together, living up to the incredible honor that comes with this title and the awesome responsibility that comes with this office.

Politics today seemingly rewards only passion and independence, not deliberation and compromise as well. It has become commonplace to hear candidates for this body campaign on how they are going to Washington to shake things up—all by themselves. May I politely suggest that you are seeking election to the wrong office. The U.S. Senate does not work that way, nor can it, nor should it. Mayors, Governors, and Presidents can sometimes succeed by the sheer force of their will, but there has never been a Senator so persuasive, so charismatic, so clever, or so brilliant that they could make a significant difference while refusing to work with other Members of this body.

Simply put, Senators cannot ultimately be effective alone.

As I noted earlier, until last year's health care bill, there had not been a single piece of legislation I had ever passed without a Republican partner.

Of course, none of those victories came easily. The notion that partisan politics is a new phenomenon, or that partisan politics serve no useful purpose, is just flat wrong.

From the moment of our founding, America has been engaged in an eternal and often pitched partisan debate. That is no weakness. In fact, it is at the core of our strength as a democracy, and success as a nation.

Political bipartisanship is a goal, not a process.

You do not begin the debate with bipartisanship—you arrive there. And you can do so only when determined partisans create consensus—and thus bipartisanship.

In the end, the difference between a partisan brawl and a passionate, but ultimately productive, debate rests on the personal relationships among those of us who serve here.

A legislative body that operates on unanimous consent, as we do, cannot function unless the Members trust each other. There is no hope of building that trust unless there is the will to treat each other with respect and civility, and to invest the time it takes to create that trust and strengthen those personal bonds.

No matter how obnoxious you find a colleague's rhetoric or how odious you find their beliefs, you will need them. And despite what some may insist, you do no injustice to your ideological principles when you seek out common ground. You do no injustice to your political beliefs when you take the time to get to know those who don't share them.

I have served with several hundred Senators under every partisan configuration imaginable: Republican presidents and Democratic presidents, divided government and one party control.

And as odd as it may sound in the present political environment, in the last three decades I have served here, I cannot recall a single Senate colleague with whom I could not work.

Sometimes those relationships take time, but then, that is why the Framers gave us 6-year terms: so that members could build the social capital necessary to make the Senate function.

Under our Constitution, Senators are given 6 years, but only you can decide how to use them. And as one Senator who has witnessed what is possible here, I urge each of you: Take the time to use those years well. I pledge to those of you who have recently arrived, your tenure here will be so much more rewarding.

More importantly, you will be vindicating the confidence that the Framers placed in each person who takes the oath of office, as a U.S. Senator, upholding a trust that echoes through the centuries.

I share the confidence that Roger Sherman, Oliver Ellsworth, and the Framers placed in this body and in its Members. But I am not blind. The Senate today, in the view of many, is not functioning as it can and should.

I urge you to look around. This moment is difficult, not only for this body, but for the nation it serves. In the end, what matters most in America is not what happens within the walls of this Chamber, but rather the consequences of our decisions across the Nation and around the globe.

Our economy is struggling, and many of our people are experiencing real hardship—unemployment, home foreclosures, endangered pensions.

Meanwhile, our Nation faces real challenges: a mounting national debt, energy, immigration, nuclear proliferation, ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and so much more. All these challenges make the internal political and procedural conflicts we face as Senators seem small and petty.

History calls each of us to lift our eyes above the fleeting controversies of the moment, and to refocus our attention on our common challenge and common purpose.

By regaining its footing, the Senate can help this nation to regain confidence, and restore its sense of optimism.

We must regain that focus. And, most importantly, we need our con-

fidence back—we need to feel that same optimism that has sustained us through more than two centuries.

Now, I am not naive. I am aware of the conventional wisdom that predicts gridlock in the Congress.

But I know both the Democratic and Republican leaders. I know the sitting members of this chamber as well. And my confidence is unshaken.

Why? Because we have been here before. The country has recovered from economic turmoil. Americans have come together to heal deep divides in our Nation and the Senate has led by finding its way through seemingly intractable political division.

We have proven time and time again that the Senate is capable of meeting the test of history. We have evidenced the wisdom of the Framers who created its unique rules and set the high standards that we must meet.

After all, no other legislative body grants so much power to each member, nor does any other legislative body ask so much of each member.

Just as the Senate's rules empower each Member to act like a statesman, they also require statesmanship from each of us.

But these rules are merely requiring from us the kind of leadership that our constituents need from us, that history calls on us to provide in difficult times such as the ones we're encountering.

Maturity in a time of pettiness, calm in a time of anger, and leadership in a time of uncertainty—that is what the Nation asks of the Senate, and that is what this office demands of us.

Over the past two centuries, some 1,900 men and women have shared the privilege of serving in this body. Each of us has been granted a temporary, fleeting moment in which to indulge either our political ambition and ideological agenda, or, alternatively, to rise to the challenge and make a constructive mark on our history.

My moment is now at an end, but to those whose moments are not yet over, and to those whose moments will soon begin, I wish you so much more than good fortune.

I wish you wisdom. I wish you courage. And I wish for each of you that, one day, when you reflect on your moment, you will know that you have lived up to the tremendous honor and daunting responsibility of being a United States Senator.

To quote St. Paul, "... the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

So, Mr. President, it is with great pride, deep humility and incredible gratitude, as a United States Senator, that I yield the floor.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have on many occasions spoken of my affection for my friend CHRIS DODD. At the caucus today—the Presiding Officer was

there—I indicated very few people have had the opportunity and the challenges in a single Congress as CHRIS DODD. He found himself chairman of the Banking Committee at a time when the country was collapsing, the banks were collapsing. Yet he led the way to working with the Republican President to do the so-called TARP. It was something that was done on a bipartisan basis. There was never a better example in my entire government career of a more cooperative group of Senators, Democrats and Republicans, House and the Senate, working together to create something that was badly needed.

Then we had, of course, many other issues beginning with Wall Street reform. Then, to complicate his life and to add to the challenges in his life—the best friend a man could ever have was CHRIS DODD's best friend, Ted Kennedy—Ted Kennedy was stricken very ill. Senator DODD knew he would not be back to the Senate. Very few people knew that, but he knew that. He, in effect, was chairing two major committees at the same time, the HELP Committee and the Banking Committee. He did it in a way that is so commendable, so exemplary.

I have so much, I repeat, affection for CHRIS DODD that I am not capable of expressing how deeply I feel about this good man. I will have more to say later, but I did want to take this opportunity, as soon as the Republican leader makes his remarks, to allow his colleague from the State of Connecticut to speak following the two leaders, if that is OK.

I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senator McCONNELL, Senator LIEBERMAN be recognized.

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

The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, like most Members of this body, I am rarely at a loss for words, but I think we have just had an opportunity to hear one of the most important speeches in the history of the Senate about our beginnings, about our traditions, about what is unique about this institution which makes it different from any other legislative body in the world. I have heard many people discuss that over the years but never anyone so cogently point out why the uniqueness of this institution is so important to our country as the senior Senator from Connecticut has done it today. So while we have a huge number of Senators on the floor, I am going to strongly recommend that those who were not here have an opportunity to take a look at his remarks because I think they are an enormously significant and important contribution to this institution and to its future.

On a personal basis, I want to say to my good friend from Connecticut how much I am going to miss him—his wonderful personality, his ability to talk to anybody—a uniquely effective individual.

So we bid adieu to the senior Senator from Connecticut and hope our paths will cross again in the future.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, for 22 years it has been a blessing for me to have served with CHRIS DODD in the Senate as my colleague from Connecticut, as my dear friend, as my legislative partner. I am going to miss him a lot, as everybody in this Chamber will. I think when we listened to the words he spoke to us just a few moments ago—how full of wisdom and warmth they were—we knew how much we are going to miss him and how much we should consider what has made him not only our great friend but a truly great Senator.

CHRIS mentioned Sherman and Ellsworth, whose pictures are out in the reception area just off the Senate, who crafted the Connecticut Compromise, really created the Senate. I think CHRIS DODD, who is the 54th Senator from the State of Connecticut in our history, took this institution that Sherman and Ellsworth created in the Connecticut Compromise and made it work to the great benefit of the people of Connecticut and the people of America.

To the great benefit of the people of Connecticut and the people of America, CHRIS DODD was born to a legacy, an honorable legacy of public service, which he watched, as so many of us did in Connecticut, and, of course, learned from, from his father, Senator Thomas J. Dodd. I could say a lot about Senator Dodd, Sr. He was a prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, remarkably principled, skillful prosecutor, who became a Member of the Senate.

I will tell you that as a young man in Connecticut, me, growing up, thinking about a political career, when I heard that Senator Tom Dodd was somewhere within range of where I lived or went to school, I went to listen to him speak. He was a classic orator, an extraordinarily principled man who had a great career in the Senate.

As we know from the years we have served with CHRIS, the characteristics I have described of his father were taken and put to extraordinarily good use in the Senate.

CHRIS's words were very important, and, as Senator McCONNELL said, should be studied by all of us and by anyone thinking about coming to the Senate. We all talk about this being an age of hyperpartisanship. But I think that misses the point because, as CHRIS said, he is a partisan in the best sense of the word. He is a principled partisan. He is passionate about what he believes in. But he knows we come to a point when partisanship ends, and you have to get something done for the public that was good enough to send you here.

Over and over again, any of us on both sides of the aisle who have watched CHRIS work a bill know how

persistent, how open, how anxious he was to try to find common ground, yes, to compromise because ultimately our work is the art of the possible. Somebody once said to me: The futility of the failure to compromise, there is no result from it. But if you have a goal, a principled goal, you know you can achieve a significant part of that goal if you can build enough support in this Chamber, and time and time again CHRIS DODD did that.

The other reason I think he did it is because of the truth that he spoke in his remarks, which is that beyond the great debates and the headlines and the sniping back and forth, the Senate, after all, is 100 people who go to work in the same place every day, and your ability to get things done in the Senate, as is true in offices and factories all over America and other places of work, your ability to get things done here is affected, in great measure, by the trust your colleagues have in you and even the extent to which they like you.

I think, by those standards, CHRIS DODD has been totally trustworthy. As we were taught when we grew up in Connecticut politics, his word has been his bond, and his personality has warmed each of us as we have gone through the labors we go through here.

CHRIS DODD has served longer in the Senate than any Senator from Connecticut. So on this day—and he will forgive me a little bit of hyperbole. I would guess, as a matter of friendship and faith, that he has probably accomplished more than any other Senator in the history of the State of Connecticut, and he has done it because he cares about people. When he takes something on, he simply does not quit.

I just want to tell you one story. In 1989, CHRIS met a woman named Eva Bunnell at her church in East Haddam, CT. She told him her daughter had been born with a rare brain disease and was fighting for her life in the intensive care unit. But when her husband asked his employer for time off to be with his wife and critically sick infant, he was told to go home and never come back, leaving a family without income or health insurance.

The story, all too common at the time, is the kind of injustice that has repeatedly moved CHRIS DODD to action. He authored, as we know, the Family and Medical Leave Act. He worked, as I said before, on compromises that made it acceptable to a large number of people, stuck with it through two Presidential vetoes, and then finally saw it signed into law by President Clinton in 1993.

Today, the records will show that more than 50 million people, 50 million people, have been able to take time off from work to care for a loved one or give birth to a child without fear of losing their jobs.

That is a lifetime achievement, but it is only one of many such achievements CHRIS DODD has had in the Senate. Senator REID talked about this

last session of his Senate career, extraordinary accomplishments: health care reform, Wall Street reform, the Iran sanctions bill which came out of the Banking Committee, which is, in my opinion, the strongest such bill we have ever passed and the last best hope to avoid the necessity to take military action against Iran. This is the kind of record CHRIS has built.

Up until this time, I have been serious, and when you talk about CHRIS DODD, it would be wrong to be totally serious because one of the things we are going to miss is that booming laugh and the extraordinary sense of humor. I have had many great laughs with colleagues here. I have probably given too many laughs to colleagues, as I think about it. But I have never laughed louder or more over the years than I have with CHRIS DODD.

Perhaps it is not totally appropriate on the Senate floor, but I have two of his comments, one about me, that I wish to share. I notice the former comedian is here. A while ago, only CHRIS DODD would have told an audience here in Washington that he thought enough time had passed in my career that he could reveal that JOE LIEBERMAN actually had not been born Jewish but was born a Baptist and raised a Baptist, and then when I got into politics and saw how many events I would have to go to on Friday night or Saturday, I converted to Judaism to take the Sabbath off. Then CHRIS said: And, you know, I am thinking of converting to Judaism myself but only for the weekends.

Another quick quip. As my colleagues in the Senate know, it is our honor to walk our State colleagues down the center aisle in the Senate to be sworn in for a new term. The first time I did that, we walked arm in arm, as we always have. CHRIS turned to me and said: You know, JOE, there are people who are worried that you may be the only person I will ever walk down an aisle with.

Well, fortunately, that was not true because, CHRIS and Jackie got married and had these two wonderful daughters, Grace and Christina, who have provided so much joy and satisfaction and hopefulness to CHRIS.

We are going to miss you. I am going to miss you personally. I speak for myself, but I speak, I would bet, for just everybody in this Chamber in saying we feel so close to you that we know our friendship will go on.

I would say CHRIS DODD leaves, to sum up an extraordinary Senate career, having achieved a record of results that benefited the people of Connecticut and America in untold ways. He has a wonderful family with whom he looks forward to spending time, and he has oh so many great years ahead of him, including, I hope and believe, times when he will again be of service to our country.

God bless you, CHRIS, and your family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to join with my colleagues in saluting the departure of one of our best, Senator CHRIS DODD. I first saw his father, though I did not meet him, when I was a student intern for Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois, who had an office that was next door to CHRIS DODD's father's. I saw Senator Thomas Dodd leaving that office and was certainly aware of the great contribution he made to America.

Little did I know some 16 years later, when I would be a candidate for the House of Representatives, that his son would come to Decatur, IL, to do an event for me in my campaign. It was a smashing success, the biggest turnout ever. I am sure Senator DODD believes it might have been because of his presence. It also could have been because it was a \$1 chicken dinner and people came from miles around. But I was happy to advertise him as the star talent at that event.

What a great life story. CHRISTOPHER JOHN DODD, the fifth of six children of Thomas and Grace Dodd, was born in 1944 with a caul, a thin veil of skin thought to be a sign of good luck, covering his head. The doctor who delivered him told his mother that with this sign of good luck, this baby might grow up to be President, to which Mrs. Dodd replied: "What is the matter with Franklin Roosevelt?"

It was a great line, but the truth is, while Grace and Tom Dodd were both ardent New Dealers, they knew America would not depend on one leader forever, not even FDR. They knew and they taught their children they all have an obligation in our own time to try to move America closer to a more perfect Union.

Thomas Dodd, Senator DODD's father, worked to fulfill that obligation in his time. He chased John Dillinger as an FBI agent, prosecuted war criminals and KKK members as a government lawyer, and served in both the House and Senate. His son CHRIS followed his father's example, found his way to serve America by serving in the Peace Corps as a volunteer in the Dominican Republic, where he lived for 2 years in a mountaintop village in a house with a tin roof and no running water or telephone.

In that village he started a maternity hospital, family planning program, a youth club, and a school. Those were the first installments of what would become, for CHRIS DODD, a lifetime of work protecting women and children worldwide.

Senator DODD was elected to the Senate in 1980, at the ripe age of 36. He is both the youngest person ever elected to the Senate in Connecticut history and the longest serving, as has been said. Early on, his colleagues recognized his talents and named him one of the three most effective freshman Senators. He has never let up on his efforts to help America and help Connecticut.

He is a passionate, articulate voice for economic justice, for civil, constitutional and human rights and for America's role as a moral leader in the world. He is a champion of fairness, co-founder of the Senate Children's Caucus, lead sponsor, as Senator LIEBERMAN mentioned, in 1993, of the Family and Medical Leave Act, which has helped countless millions of Americans.

He has achieved more in the last 2 years, though, than most Senators achieve in long careers. As chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, he led the fight in the Senate for the most important Wall Street reform since the Great Depression. He picked up the fallen standard from his dear friend Ted Kennedy and helped lead the fight Ted Kennedy always dreamed of for affordable health care for all Americans. For that achievement alone, CHRIS DODD has earned a place in history.

CHRIS DODD has, as Eugene O'Neill might say, "the map of Ireland on his face," but he has the promise of America written in his heart. His work in the Senate has made that promise real for millions of Americans. In his office in the Russell Senate Office Building, an office once occupied by his father, are portraits of two Thomases: Thomas Dodd, his father, and another of his heroes, Sir Thomas More.

I listened to CHRIS's speech just a moment ago, and I was reminded of what Thomas More wrote in his masterwork, "Utopia." He said:

If you can't completely eradicate wrong ideas, or deal with inveterate vices as effectively as you could wish, that is no reason for turning your back on public life all together. You wouldn't abandon a ship in a storm just because you couldn't control the winds.

For 30 years in the Senate, even when he has had to sail through fierce headwinds, CHRIS DODD has kept his compass fixed on the ideals that make America both great and good. In doing so, he has made the Senate, Connecticut, and America a better place.

I am proud to have served with him and call him a friend. I thank him for his efforts that brought me to the House of Representatives so many years ago. I thank him for his service in the Senate and a special thanks to his wonderful family; Jackie, a great friend, and those two great daughters, Grace and Christine, whom I have seen as swimmers at the Senate pool, good health and good luck to the whole family for many more chapters in their lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to my dear friend and colleague and, in a very real sense, mentor. I can testify from the experience of the last 2 years to his remarkable contributions to this country.

I don't believe any other Senator could have navigated the treacherous

waters of the Dodd-Frank bill. It was like watching a great conductor conduct a complicated piece of music: knowing when to pause and let tempers cool, knowing when to pick up the tempo, knowing when to come to the final conclusion. It was a virtuosos performance, in keeping with a career of contributing to Connecticut and to this country.

The most remarkable tribute I have ever heard about this wonderful man was in a very unusual place by a person who honestly probably doesn't know who he is. It was May 21, 2010. I was visiting a wounded soldier at Walter Reed Army Hospital, a member of the Second Battalion, 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. He had been wounded around Kandahar by an IED. Fortunately, he was on the road to recovery. We joked for a moment and talked about his experiences, and I turned to his mother, who was sitting there watching her son, her life, her hope make a full recovery, and I said: How are you doing?

She said to me very simply: I am doing fine. You see, I was able to take family medical leave and be with my son while he recuperated.

She probably doesn't know who Senator DODD is or what he did, but she, along with 50 million other Americans, was by the hospital bed of a wounded son or a sick child or an ailing parent. To me, that is the greatest tribute to what Senator DODD has done.

There is a great line I recall about Franklin Roosevelt. His cortege was winding its way through Washington. A man was sobbing, sobbing, sobbing. A reporter rushed up to him: Well, you are so affected. You must have known the President. Did you know the President?

He said: No, I never knew the President, but he knew me.

CHRIS DODD knew the people of Connecticut and the people of the United States, and in every moment, he served them with integrity and diligence and honor.

CHRIS, to you, to your family—and I say this because your mother is from Westerly, RI, God bless her; and your beloved sister, our dear friends Martha and Bernie, from Rhode Island—as an adopted son of Rhode Island, thank you for your service to the Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, may I associate myself with the remarks of my distinguished senior Senator and reemphasize our pride in the contacts that Chairman DODD, Senator DODD, our friend CHRIS DODD has with Rhode Island.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I wish to take a couple of minutes to salute the service of one great Senator, CHRIS DODD.

CHRIS and I have served together for more than 25 years. When I arrived

here—and I was not one of the youngest people to get here at that time, but CHRIS was someone I knew from other walks of life—I turned to him, as well as my dear friend who used to occupy this seat, Ted Kennedy, for advice and counsel. Sometimes the counseling was better than the advice, but we were younger then.

CHRIS DODD has that incredible personality that gets things done, that presents a leadership position on issues. He has shown incredible patience in the way he dealt with financial reform and with health care. But never, as I saw it, did CHRIS leave the people who disagreed with him with anger, with a feeling of anger or with anything other than respect and friendship.

CHRIS comes from a distinguished family. His father occupied a seat here for a dozen years. Now Senator CHRIS DODD has decided to leave the Senate. It was a decision he made with which I totally disagreed. It was bad judgment, I can tell my colleagues that. When I left after 18 years of service, three terms, I decided I had had enough. I left. Good fortune smiled on me, and I came back after 2 years, after a 2-year absence, missing being here maybe more than it missed me.

I remember, as I made my outgoing visits—no, my decisionmaking visits—CHRIS invited me to his office with Ted Kennedy and a colleague whom we had at the time, Paul Wellstone, now deceased but a wonderful colleague. The three of them sat with me in CHRIS's office, and CHRIS tried to talk me out of leaving. I said: No, it is a decision I made. I began to have misgivings about it, but by then, the die was cast; there were other people who wanted to run for the job. So I left with lots of regrets. I was away from here for a period of time. In 2001 when I left, it was a terrible year—the year of 9/11 and the beginning of a recession and the beginning of war and all of those things. So I tried to play turnaround with CHRIS, and I talked to CHRIS about leaving and I said: CHRIS, don't leave. Don't do it.

CHRIS DODD will leave a void. I think it is obvious that someone will follow, take the reins. It doesn't mean they will ever take his place. I don't think that is possible. CHRIS DODD will have left an impression here of decency and honesty and honor and respect on all of us on both sides of the aisle—one of the few times we all agree.

So I say to CHRIS and Jackie and your two little girls that we wish you well. Our friendship will endure way past our time serving together.

CHRIS, follow my example. Give it a couple of years and get back here, will you. Thank you very, very much, CHRIS DODD, for your wonderful service. We love you, and we will miss you, and we will always think about you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise to speak briefly in honor of our friend and colleague, the senior Senator from

Connecticut. I have watched him from the day I came here. We knew each other a little bit when I was in the House. He left the House to go to the Senate, but we had many of the same friends when I came to the House. I always marveled at his abilities.

For those of us who have served here—I have only been here 12 years—we know the joys and difficulties of legislating in the Senate. We know it is not easy, and we know how satisfying it is. There are very few who reach the acme of how to do it and who devote their lives to it. I guess they are given a title—I don't know if it is official; it is probably not—they are the "men and women of the Senate." We have had two leave us in the last year: Senator Robert Byrd and Senator Ted Kennedy. They were truly men of the Senate. It is not a title bestowed easily or lightly or frequently.

CHRIS DODD is a man of the Senate. He is in the category of Ted Kennedy and Robert Byrd in terms of his ability to get things done, his ability as a legislative craftsman, as somebody who is able to combine idealism and practicality, as somebody who is able to sit down with someone, as has been mentioned before, with a totally different viewpoint and get them to compromise and be on his side and be part of the effort he is leading. He is a man of the Senate. He will always be a man of the Senate. I will miss him personally for his guidance and friendship, and I think every one of us will.

CHRIS, good luck and Godspeed.

Mr. DODD. Thank you very, very much.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, if there is no other Senator wishing to speak, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

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

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

#### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today we have an opportunity to assist literally hundreds of thousands of families across this country who are out of work through no fault of their own, who are battling with the most severe economic downturn since the Great Depression, who are chasing jobs that have disappeared, and they are looking everywhere to try to find work. We have the opportunity to extend unemployment benefits for an additional year.

In my State of Rhode Island, people are in a very serious situation. They are struggling to stay in their homes, to educate their children, to deal with the challenges of everyday life. They