

only superpower with the strongest economy and the ability, uniquely, to extend military authority around the world.

All of this occurred because President Reagan persuaded the Congress and his countrymen to build our armed forces, to build our economy through the growth incentives termed “Reaganomics,” to maintain the successful strategies of our NATO alliance, to utilize military force to support foreign policy as required, and to commence Strategic Defense Initiative research.

We now know that the Soviets were much weaker than experts estimated. We now know that they could not keep up the pace and that desperate attempts to do so led to the collapse of the Soviet Empire and then to the collapse of the Union, itself.

President Reagan advocated two more things which were inspiring and critically important in world history.

First, he rejected the Brezhnev Doctrine—the idea that territory which socialism has occupied can never be reclaimed. When he advocated this roll back of the Iron Curtain, he created deep anxiety and alarm among most international foreign policy advisers who loved liberty a lot, but loved stability even more.

U.S. Stinger missiles shipped to the expert ministrations of the Mujadadin in Afghanistan were a major instrument of the Soviet roll back, and the world watched in awe as the Soviet troops withdrew to a smaller socialist world.

Second, President Reagan enunciated a new policy in a statement sent to Congress after the Philippine election and revolution. He stated that henceforth, we would oppose tyranny of the left and tyranny of the right, that we were for democracy developed by the people who sought to know and enjoy democracy and human rights. This statement was severely criticized by experts who suggested that in the “real world” a good number of dictators were friendly to the U.S. and certainly useful in waging the Cold War against communism.

In articulating his vision on the roll back of the Iron Curtain; in identifying with nations all over the world who applauded our passion for building democratic institutions; in celebrating human rights and free market principles; in all of these areas, Ronald Reagan was far ahead of the prevailing wisdom. Yet he ultimately brought other leaders in America and around the world to his point of view in a relatively short interval.

Surely the spirit of the Doolittle Award strongly commends not only being courageous, and being on the right side of history, but performing these deeds in a very public way which instructs and inspires others. Some of us have learned much from President Reagan as we have watched him speak and act. He is charismatic, he is determined and consistent, and he enjoys a remarkable batting average of being right.

We now have an important responsibility to make certain that our children comprehend the greatness of his presidency, his optimism about the particular uniqueness of our future opportunities in this country, and the foundations for world peace which his leadership established and which we are charged to build upon.

We now also have the opportunity today to correct the historical mistake made a few years ago in designating Mikhail Gorbachev “Man of the Decade.” It has to be a high moment in each of our lives to be able to present to President and to Mrs. Reagan even a small fraction of all of the tributes which well up in our minds and hearts today.

On behalf of all of your friends assembled to celebrate your life and service, President Reagan, it is my honor to announce that you are the recipient of the James H. Doolittle

Award and to express the unbounded gratitude which we have come here to demonstrate today.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to join with my colleagues in this august Chamber, especially Senators FEINSTEIN, HATCH, and WEBB, members of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission, as we pause to pay tribute to the indelible legacy of one of America’s truly great Presidents, Ronald Reagan, who would have turned 100 years old on February 6, 2011. It is indeed fitting that as this month of February is filled with historic birthdays of transformational Presidents like George Washington, who founded our Nation, and Abraham Lincoln, who preserved it, that we honor the President who reignited its spirit, Ronald Reagan.

A friend of freedom, a foe of tyranny, and always—always an advocate for America, President Reagan inspired our Nation eloquently and powerfully to recapture and reaffirm our founding ideals of individual freedom, common sense, and limited government. He reminded us with unshakable optimism that America, as the great experiment in self-government, had planted an eternal stake along the timeline of human history as, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, “the last best hope of Earth.”

Many of my colleagues will be sharing their own personal remembrances of this threshold figure whom we rank as among the most rarefied of American Presidents. What I recall is a President who brought his passionate belief in the ideals of America to bear in advancing our Nation and projecting the hope of freedom as a force for good in the world and a leader who was, contrary perhaps to conventional wisdom, not averse to consensus-building in implementing his vision for this country.

Like those rising to speak in this venerable Chamber today, I remember well the arduous challenges facing our Nation in 1980. At the time, I had just completed my freshman term as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Internationally, our country was precariously mired in the Cold War, and reeling from the Iran hostage crisis. On the domestic front, our economic vitality had been sapped by double-digit inflation, hampered by interest rates that would soar to 21 percent, stifled by massive tax burdens including a top tax rate of 70 percent, and idled by an energy crisis, exemplified by half mile long lines at the gas pump.

Against that backdrop, President Reagan arrived in Washington with an unflagging conviction that the greatest untapped potential lies in the American people themselves. And by embracing hope, not resignation, he charted a course for America that led to greater prosperity and security.

As Commander-in-Chief, President Reagan was steadfast in his uncompromising foresight and ultimate success in building up our military, and dis-

played unequivocal mettle in confronting the world’s only other superpower, laying the foundation for victory in the Cold War. With peace through strength, Ronald Reagan called America to a purpose he described in his own hand in 1980. He wrote: “I believe it is our pre-ordained destiny to show all mankind that they too can be free without having to leave their native shore.” And nothing evoked that immutable faith in humanity and belief in the possibilities for a better future more than his demand at the Brandenburg Gate forever etched in our memory: “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!” Two years later, that wall did crumble, and not long after, so too did the Soviet Empire.

President Reagan battled to reduce the size of the Federal bureaucracy—to return tax dollars to the families who had earned them and disseminate power out of Washington and back to local governments. And I well recall meeting with President Reagan numerous times to discuss issues as far ranging as the MX missile, the budget, women’s issues, or the impact of proposed trade policies on traditional Maine industries such as potatoes or lumber.

And I can attest to the fact that, as a problem solver on every front, President Reagan understood that in order to bring to fruition his core principles and also ensure he could be resolute in implementing his vision for the country, he had to make it happen with persuasion and openness. After all, it was President Reagan who believed “if I can get 70 or 80 percent of what it is I’m trying to get . . . I’ll take that and then continue to try to get the rest in the future.”

In the end, President Reagan’s deeds and words summoned America’s resolve and essential goodness, and his steady hand guided this great land in working to foster liberty and kindle the fires of freedom that have always made America as President Reagan said better than anyone—“a shining city on a hill.” On the occasion of his 100th birthday, we express our eternal gratitude to President Reagan for his timeless leadership of our Nation which he aptly described in his first inaugural address as “the breed called Americans.”

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. McCASKILL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FINDING COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, it is my great honor to speak on the floor

for the first time as a Senator. I am truly humbled by this auspicious occasion and the enormous privilege to serve the greatest people in America—the people of West Virginia. West Virginia may be a small State, but our impact on our Nation's history and our future is far greater than the size of our geography or population.

West Virginia was borne out of the turmoil of the Civil War, founded by patriots who shared a united pursuit for justice and freedom for all. Since this historic beginning, our lands and vast natural resources have helped build this Nation. Our people's hard work, sacrifices, and patriotism have helped make our Nation stronger and safer. From the mining of the coal that powers our cities to the forging of the steel, we have done and will do the heavy lifting that has built America.

But this great responsibility to serve as a Senator for West Virginia would never have come about had our State not lost a true giant, our beloved Senator Robert C. Byrd. Senator Byrd was a mentor to me, a great friend to West Virginia, and a tireless advocate for us all. West Virginia would not be the State it is today without the inexhaustible commitment he made every day. Every day without Senator Byrd is a loss for us all, but we can all take comfort that he made not just West Virginia a better State, but he made America a greater nation. While no one will be able to fill his shoes, I hope to honor his memory by continuing down the path he blazed fighting to better the lives of West Virginians and all Americans.

I would also like to recognize the unwavering leadership of West Virginia's distinguished senior Senator who has left a dynamic mark on history, my dear friend Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER. He has committed his life to giving outstanding public service to a very grateful State.

Throughout my 20 years in public service, I have been fortunate beyond words to have been able to serve the great people of West Virginia. Again and again, I have been inspired by West Virginians' devotion to family, their love of country, their belief in hard work and sacrifice and, above all, their undeniable spirit to weather any storm by coming together.

I have seen our State endure the most devastating challenges—horrific flooding, the tragic mining accidents—and I have seen our State in the best of times. But at all times, the spirit of West Virginia has never been broken. It is this spirit of working together and finding commonsense solutions to any challenge that inspires me. It is this spirit that also inspired both sets of my grandparents to immigrate to America—one from Italy and the other from Czechoslovakia. My grandparents came here with the same goals shared by countless generations of immigrants: to provide a better quality of life for their families through hard work and sacrifice. They did just that.

This is what I learned growing up in West Virginia: When things are tough, we do not back down. When we are having trouble paying our bills, we do not think of spending more money. When we face difficult times, we work together to make things better. When faced with a problem, we do not avoid what needs to be done; we try to solve it. This is what West Virginians would call common sense.

I was born and raised in Farmington, WV, a small coal mining town. Nothing will teach you common sense like growing up in a town of less than 500 people. I was educated in our public schools and became the first member of my family to graduate from college. I met my partner in life, my wife Gayle, in West Virginia. We raised our three children in the State we love.

I have long believed in the importance of public service, beginning with my days supporting a volunteer rescue squad in Marin County and working with the United Way more than three decades ago.

As for my public life, my first days as a State legislator to my last days as Governor, I realized that none of us in this or any body are simply elected to an office. We are not here for the title. We are here to make a difference.

I am here to work hard and do this job, and I will work with anyone who offers commonsense solutions on how to best move this country forward.

In my maiden inaugural address as West Virginia's 34th Governor, I said that in order for us to be successful, it was going to take the commitment of civic leaders, public employees, businesspeople and laborers, educators, students and parents, lawyers and doctors, veterans, young professionals, senior citizens, and Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

At the time, very few thought such a diverse coalition could ever be forged, let alone actually accomplish something in the process. But we West Virginians put politics aside. We listened to each other, we worked together, and we came together to find common ground and develop commonsense solutions.

As a result, we changed the direction of our State for the better. We got our financial house in order. We lowered our taxes for both families and businesses. We paid down unfunded liabilities. We created thousands of new jobs.

There was a surplus every year I was Governor. West Virginia became a stronger State and one of the very few fiscally solvent States in this Nation, all during the worst recession in generations. We solved the actual problems that were holding our State back, and those problems were not solved with partisan rhetoric and the mentality "If you win, I lose." Not at all. West Virginians came together with a shared vision and a common purpose. By working together, we found commonsense solutions. In doing so, we made the future we all share better.

This commonsense model is by no means unique to only West Virginia. I truly believe we can develop commonsense solutions to the problems our Nation faces—commonsense solutions defined not by party or ideology but by doing what is right and what makes sense for our State and our country. I am committed to doing just that.

Of course, cynics will argue that gridlock is inevitable and that commonsense solutions are impossible because the partisan division in Washington is too great. I say they are wrong. While the legislative reality we face is divided government, it does not mean we must be divided. In fact, since the day I was sworn in as a Senator, I have been fortunate to sit and talk with many of my Democratic and Republican colleagues. Every time, what I heard was a profound love for this great Nation and an unbreakable commitment to leave this country better and stronger for future generations.

While disagreements in how we solve our Nation's great challenges will occur, they need not divide us. I see these disagreements as an opportunity for us to seek the common ground that will unite us and move our Nation forward. I am committed to working with both sides to do what is right to address the serious economic and policy challenges we face as a nation and which are of deep concern to the hard-working people of West Virginia.

I heard these concerns loudly and clearly during our most recent work period. During those 2 weeks in January, I traveled more than 2,100 miles on my "Call for Common Sense" tour. I held more than 28 events and met with the unemployed, seniors, veterans, small business owners, young professionals, labor leaders, educators, leaders from our coal and energy industry, as well as leaders in manufacturing. I held townhall meetings in Wheeling and Elkins, where West Virginians with diverse concerns came together to share their opinions.

Again and again, I heard their serious concerns about the economy and jobs, the need to protect coal and our energy industry, as well as their fears from rising debt and deficits. I heard about what government was doing or not doing to ensure that we keep our promises to our seniors and our veterans.

What I also heard was a lot of commonsense ideas about what our country needs to focus on and what we must do to provide a more secure future for our children and grandchildren.

Addressing these top concerns—job creation, deficit reduction, energy independence, and keeping our promises to our veterans and our seniors—matters not only to West Virginians and me, but they matter to every one of you and all of America.

With respect to job creation, our Nation continues to struggle with high unemployment and a great recession that feels too much like a Great Depression for the millions of Americans looking for work.

For too long, we have seen America's manufacturing sector decimated by the cruel irony of rules and regulations that make it easier to create jobs abroad than in the United States. West Virginians are not asking for a hand-out. We are asking for a work permit.

We have seen small business owners—the bedrock of our economy and our job growth—increasingly strangled by paperwork and regulatory obstacles that make doing business more difficult.

I believe that to create a thriving economy and jobs, we must lessen the burdens of unnecessary rules and regulations. Bureaucrats should not be able to regulate what has not been legislated. We need to make government work smarter and its agencies operate more efficiently and effectively. We are not asking government to be our provider; we are asking government to be our partner.

I truly hope that we in this session of Congress will work together to reform our Federal bureaucracy so we can make sure our government works for us instead of the other way around.

As a small businessperson, I know firsthand the last thing any small business owner needs is more regulation or paperwork. It is why I was proud to be one of the lead Democrats to work across the aisle to cosponsor legislation with my friend, Senator MIKE JOHANNIS, to repeal the 1099 provision from our health care reform. I was even more proud to add my voice last night to the many Senators from both parties who showed we can and will work together on commonsense reform of health care legislation. It is why I will continue to work with any of my colleagues to ensure we do everything we can to help small businesses, not just by improving health care reform but also by strengthening the access to the capital and investment that small businesses so desperately need to create jobs.

Improving the opportunity for small businesses and boosting job creation will also depend on making difficult choices to rein in wasteful spending and rising debt. As we learned last week, the fiscal 2012 deficit is projected to be \$1.5 trillion. The Congressional Budget Office projects that under current law, our national debt will reach \$25 trillion by 2021.

What I heard from my fellow West Virginians is that we must get our financial house in order. My proud grandfather always told me crippling debt will lead us to make cowardly decisions.

America is not a country of cowards. During a recent townhall meeting I held in Wheeling, a young college student, worried about getting married and having a family in the near future, told me she was worried because of the debt and fiscal burdens her child would inherit. For me, this young woman's words are a tragic reminder of the consequences that will come from inaction. In America, no one should have to

have second thoughts about starting a family because of his or her worries about our Nation's out-of-control spending and rising debt.

As I have said before, we as a nation cannot spend ourselves to prosperity. We must confront our fiscal situation and be willing to make the right investments and the difficult choices. Doing so for West Virginians is just common sense. West Virginians do not go out and spend more money when they face tough financial problems. They cut back and live within their means. I believe we all in America must do the same, especially in Washington. To that end, I believe we must declare a bipartisan war against wasteful spending and begin to take responsible steps to scour our Nation's budget for all waste and redundant programs.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop a commonsense strategy on how to best cut spending and address our rising debt and deficits. While these steps will require difficult decisions, I believe if we put partisanship aside and work together, we can have a bipartisan, commonsense plan that improves our fiscal future and sets our Nation on a new course for fiscal responsibility.

But strengthening our economy will also depend on our Nation achieving not just independence from debt but real energy independence. As a Senator from a true energy State, the second leading producer of coal with abundant resources, a net exporter of electricity, I am very proud of the critical role West Virginians play in providing energy to our Nation. I imagine the lights in this very Chamber would be a little dimmer were it not for West Virginia and West Virginia coal.

Moving forward, achieving true energy independence demands that we not only start realizing the importance coal has in achieving this goal, it means we must stop demonizing one resource and start realizing we must develop a comprehensive plan that utilizes all of our domestic resources—coal, natural gas, the development of nuclear, wind, and solar—so we can, once and for all, end our dependence on foreign oil within this generation.

If we are going to truly be secure, we must declare our country to be energy independent, and every State in this great Nation must do its part. West Virginia is using every ounce of its natural resources—our coal, our abundant supply of natural gas, biomass, wind, hydroelectric, solar—all of which should be used in the most environmentally responsible way.

As a country, we must stop buying oil from the countries that promote violence against their own people and the United States. That is just common sense.

I am also strongly committed to working with my fellow Senators to develop a realistic and responsible clean energy policy for the future that balances the needs of our country and our

environment. I believe we can achieve this commonsense balance while protecting the vital role that coal and natural gas and our other resources play in our Nation's economy.

Defending the critical role coal and West Virginia play in our Nation's energy production is one reason I submitted today my first piece of legislation—the EPA Fair Play Act of 2011—which will check the power of the Environmental Protection Agency.

I believe it is fundamentally wrong for any bureaucratic agency, including the EPA, to regulate what has not been legislated, to have absolute power to change the rules at the end of the game and to revoke a permit, as the EPA did in southern West Virginia's Spruce Mine, after it was lawfully granted and employees were hired. Giving any agency such absolute power will have a chilling effect on investment and job creation far beyond West Virginia, and I am proud there is already bipartisan support for this legislation.

Achieving a brighter future for our Nation will also depend on us keeping our promises to our seniors and veterans. West Virginia's seniors and veterans helped build and defend this Nation and we have an obligation to them we must never break.

As I traveled the State last month, I heard from seniors at breakfasts, in nursing homes, in courthouses, and at townhalls about their Social Security being at risk. I made it clear to them that I will never support going back on our promises. I also heard there are concerns about living for 2 years without a COLA increase, and I am committed to finding a commonsense solution—a recalculation of the COLA formula to make sure it reflects the reality of the cost of living today.

To our seniors, Social Security and Medicare are not just government programs, they are promises made by a thankful nation to ensure a quality of life well earned from years of hard work and sacrifice.

For our veterans, their sacrifices and patriotism know no bounds. They have answered the call of our State and this Nation again and again. They have served with unparalleled honor and distinction. As Governor, I was so proud and honored to have been commander-in-chief of the West Virginia National Guard, the greatest guard in the Nation.

West Virginia is one of the most patriotic States in the country and we are proud of the number of veterans and active-duty members who have served our military and served honorably and proudly. During this session of Congress, I am strongly committed to working with my colleagues on legislation that will ensure our veterans and their families have the best care and benefits they deserve. That is why I am so proud to be a cosponsor with the leader of this bill—Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER's legislation—giving the National Guard their rightful place on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Our National

Guard and Reserve forces have bravely assumed a major role in our combat missions, and they deserve a seat at the table along with our Active-Duty Forces. West Virginia National Guard and Reserve forces are the best in the Nation, and as Governor I was proud to be their commander-in-chief. Not only are they an operational force to be reckoned with on the front lines defending our Nation abroad, they are also first on the scene during disasters here at home.

Looking ahead, addressing the issues of job creation, rising debt and deficits, energy independence, keeping our promises to our seniors and our veterans will demand not just commonsense policies but a renewed bipartisan spirit. No matter how large a divide may seem at times, we must work together to find common ground to achieve commonsense solutions. I truly believe Republicans and Democrats and Independents can and will work together to chart a new course for this Nation.

It is why I am so proud and honored to have been selected to serve on such esteemed committees as the Armed Services Committee, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Special Committee on Aging. I look forward to working with Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN, BINGAMAN and MURKOWSKI, KOHL, CORKER, and all my committee colleagues to address the wide array of issues and challenges that will come before these important bodies.

Whether it is my work on these committees or elsewhere, I am committed to working hard and being the best Senator I can be for the State I love. Like all 99 of my colleagues, who are here for the right reasons, I will represent my State to the best of my abilities and work to make America stronger and my State proud. I pledge to you that I will not only work with each and every one of my fellow Senators to find commonsense solutions, I will do what I can to usher in a new bipartisan spirit in the Senate and in this Congress. In that spirit, I will strive to always find that commonsense bridge that unites our parties and reminds us and the world that we, no matter what State we may represent, share one common and unbreakable bond—we are all Americans. We all share a love for this Nation, for our families and for our children, and it is this bond which will unite us in these difficult times and which gives me the hope and optimism that once again we will rise above any challenge we face.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, you have just heard a classic JOE MANCHIN speech. It truly is. It is full of optimism, strength, common purpose, no problem cannot be solved, and the desire for bipartisan cooperation. If anybody can bring our two sides together, surely he can do that. He is aggressive, he is thoughtful, but above all he is optimistic. He has a positive approach, a constructive approach. He is unafraid of any problem and thrilled about doing whatever kinds of public service he does.

We actually have fairly common careers. We both served in the State legislature. He served in both branches. I served in one branch. We were both Secretaries of State and we both ran for Governor. Now we are both in the Senate. So I have known the Manchin family for years.

I have known JOE MANCHIN for years. I have always been proud of his work. He is fun. He loves sports. That is very important in life—very important in life. He loves sports. He is a devoted Mountaineer. Sometimes I think he calls the plays for our team. This is going to be a better Senate because of JOE MANCHIN, because of his personality.

I have watched him in the couple of months he has been here—couple of weeks, a month, two—and he has been all over the floor. It is fun to watch him. Somebody sits down that side, this side, and all of a sudden Senator JOE MANCHIN is seated right beside him, grabbing an arm, making a point, establishing a friendship, bonding. That is the way he is with our people.

He comes from the very heart of West Virginia—coal mining country—and that is the way he acts. That is the way his father acted. It is the way his family has always acted. They are part and parcel of the blood, the beginning and the struggle of West Virginia.

One of the reasons I am in public service is because West Virginia is always fighting uphill. People don't pay attention to us the way we think they should. They do not pay attention to what our economy has to offer the way they should. That is what motivates JOE MANCHIN. If you are a West Virginian, you simply have to fight harder. If you are a West Virginia public servant, at whatever level, you have to fight harder and you have to have an optimistic view. You have to believe things can work. You have to be determined things can work, and you have to see the course all the way to end. That is exactly who JOE MANCHIN is.

I am incredibly proud to serve with him. I read his speech before. He said some very nice things about me—all accurate. But because we have been colleagues for so long, I can tell you—and those who don't know him as well as you will—that he is a real asset to this body. We are a body which now is in the process of struggling to find out who we are. It is not always a pretty

sight, but everybody here takes public life seriously. Senator MANCHIN has the problem—some would say the opportunity, but not many—to have to be re-elected again in 2 years. So life already is more complicated for him, because that is the way the election system has worked out. But he is a bright light, and a young, aggressive bright light with an absolutely marvelous wife who is now part of us.

I think he has a unique perspective—it is a classic West Virginia perspective—and I look forward to his making an enormous difference in this body, to our State, and to our country. So I welcome him, and I congratulate him on his opening statement.

I made an opening statement some years ago. It was actually one of the most boring speeches I ever listened to. But those were the days when you weren't allowed to make a speech until you had been here for 6 months, and then everybody turned out. All the old guard—you know, such as the senior Senator from New York over there. The guys with gray beards, the wise old men, would turn out, and they all planted themselves around here and listened to this incredibly boring speech of mine, which was all about a steel company because that is what I happened to be working on at the time.

Russell Long stood up afterwards and said: that is the most brilliant speech I ever heard. But those were the days of a certain type of protocol. Times are much faster now. We have to react much faster. We don't have time for that. So Senator MANCHIN has made his speech, but he goes from his speech to his work, and there he will simply not stop until we get a better State and a better country.

I congratulate him and I welcome him officially and forever to the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I will say that I join the Senator from New York in welcoming another West Virginia Governor to the Senate. Governor Manchin succeeds a man who is irreplaceable in the Senate's history—Senator Byrd—but he brings to our Senate the skills of a Governor. Governor Rockefeller and I are very partial to those skills. We think the Senate needs more Governors. Governors are accustomed to looking for consensus, to making things work, to making things happen. We have a different sort of job here in the legislature, but those qualities are important, and especially important now when we have such large challenges to face, such as the fact that we are spending \$3.7 trillion and collecting \$2.1 trillion. All of us are shocked by that, and we have to deal with it one way or the other.

I welcome him and I welcome his wife, a distinguished educator, to the Senate family. I know she is here today, so we welcome her and look forward to learning from her as well.

I join Governor Rockefeller in saying it was a great speech. Your maiden

speech is always your best speech. I remember walking with the University of Tennessee basketball coach in Knoxville in the dogwood parade—or in some parade before the season started. He was very popular before the season began. And Senators who make maiden speeches always have their best speeches then, as basketball coaches always are most popular at the beginning of the year.

But I look forward to working with Senator MANCHIN. He will make a tremendous contribution to the Senate. I am glad I was here to hear his outstanding address, and I thank the Senator from New York for his courtesy in letting me make my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I too want to join in the accolades for our Senator from West Virginia, Senator MANCHIN. He is one fine guy. I got to know him when he was Governor and then campaigning, and he is doing a wonderful job here already.

To have passion about where you come from is noble. I think the great poets from Greek times on have written that, and nobody has more passion about where he comes from and his roots than Senator MANCHIN—JOE MANCHIN. You can see it and feel it in everything he does, as we could in this speech today. So I too join in thanking him for coming here. America needs his perspective and his wisdom, and I know he will make a great Senator. We are already great friends, and so I thank him.

I also compliment my colleague, the senior Senator from West Virginia as well, Senator ROCKEFELLER, for his kind remarks. He is a great leader. JOE and I have talked about how you cannot go wrong watching and imitating and emulating Senator ROCKEFELLER. With the two of them, I believe West Virginia might have the tallest delegation in the Senate, not just tall in inches but in stature, ability to get things done, and passion for the State they represent. It is my honor to be here as well and to congratulate JOE on a very fine and introductory speech.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I also rise today to congratulate the Senator from West Virginia on his speech and welcome him to the Senate and express pleasure in working together. I want to echo the comments of Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, the good Senator from Tennessee, as well. Being a former Governor, I actually got to know JOE MANCHIN in his days as Governor. We worked together in his days as Governor and certainly I look forward to working with him as Senator.

Our States share many interests. One of those interests is coal. I want to express my intent today to join as a cosponsor on legislation regarding EPA regulation that Senator MANCHIN is putting forward. That is a good exam-

ple where we can work together to create jobs and opportunities. I certainly look forward to doing that.

Again, I congratulate the good Senator on his speech today.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, are we back in regular order?

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

FAA AIR TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. S. 223 is the pending measure.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 21

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendments and call up amendment No. 21.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 21.

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce the total amount authorized to be appropriated for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal year 2011 to the total amount authorized to be appropriated for the Administration for fiscal year 2008)

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 108. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AT FISCAL YEAR 2008 LEVELS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of, or amendment made by, this title, the total amount authorized to be appropriated by this title to the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal year 2011 is \$14,719,000,000.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, the amendment I have presented to the floor for the FAA bill is an amendment that I think is a first step toward looking at budgetary restraint. The President, in his State of the Union Address, talked about freezing spending at 2010 levels. If we were to do that at the inflated levels of 2010, we would add \$3.8 trillion to the debt over the next 5 years. It does nothing to the looming debt crisis to leave things at 2010 levels because these were levels where we had already increased spending by over 20 percent.

What I am asking is a very modest proposal; that is, that all spending go back to the 2008 levels. This is not a

significant cut. We have increased things dramatically in recent years. FAA has been increased in funding by 50 percent over the last 8 years. We can fund the upgrading of NextGen and various things by looking for cost savings within the bill. These are things we must do.

The American people are demanding cost savings. The American people do not understand why we must pay inflated rates for our wages for the workers on Federal projects. They do not understand why Davis-Bacon wages, which were often 30 percent higher than the wages paid on other projects, private projects, must be paid. People are familiar with this even in their home States when you talk about the building of schools, how schools cost 20 and 30 percent more because of having to have inflated wages and extra regulations, extra paperwork that the Davis-Bacon laws require.

What we are looking for is cost savings everywhere—in this bill, in every bill that comes forward. As long as I am able to and as long as I am allowed, we will ask for spending reductions.

Many people in this city are for a balanced budget. They say they are for a balanced budget amendment. But how can they be for a balanced budget amendment if they are not willing to cut spending? This is a very small, almost token cut in spending, but we have to do it everywhere.

When people ask how will you balance the budget, you have to say I will cut spending. This is a very small first step to take the spending for this particular department to 2008 levels. I think it is a step long overdue. It is a chance for Members who say they are for a balanced budget to put their vote where their mouth is.

Let's vote to cut spending. Let's vote to cut spending on this bill now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 27

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 27, offered by the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN, be added to the list of pending amendments.

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

The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER], for Mr. WYDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 27.

The amendment is as follows: