

I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 319, S. 1945, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; that the bill be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to congratulate my colleague Senator DURBIN for his able articulation of his view. This is a matter that the Senate and the Congress has considered for quite a number of years. It has not decided to take this step to direct a coequal branch of government on how to conduct their business, and I don't think we should. So I think it would be inappropriate to pass this on a UC without a full debate and discussion and a full vote on it.

So I would say that.

Also, I would note the Justices have opposed this policy. I think we have a duty to respect the coequal branch of our government. They feel as though it would impact adversely the tenor and tone of the oral arguments. The Justices would also have to feel a burden and explain why they are asking a question, perhaps citing a case by name that all the lawyers would know but having to explain to nonlawyers now what is on their minds as a part of their process of questioning. So I think that is a factor.

I would also note it raises constitutional questions. Why would we want to push to the limit and perhaps push over the limit and try to dictate to a coequal branch how to conduct the adjudicative process? Not the political process; we are the political branch. Theirs is the nonpolitical branch, where Justices are given lifetime tenure so as to insulate them from pressure and to allow them to dispassionately decide complex issues. I would also note that in terms of what is said and how an argument goes, there is no difference, I suppose, between that and what goes on in chambers when the Justices meet in private and talk about what issues are before the Court and how they should be decided.

What is important in the adjudicative branch? What is the criteria and the fundamental essence of a judicial proceeding? Ultimately, it is the judgment. The judgment speaks. The arguments don't speak. The in camera discussions don't speak. The judgment itself represents the opinion of the Court. It is the law and the defining process.

I appreciate very much the work of my esteemed colleague. I know he loves the law; we both do. He believes this would improve justice in America. I can't conclude that to be correct. I believe Justices should be given the responsibility to conduct their branch consistent with their best judgment of how to do it. Therefore, I object. I thank and respect my colleague for his different opinion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 247, S. 671; that the committee-reported amendment to S. 671 be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object, it is my understanding the Judiciary Committee staff has been working on a package of important Judiciary Committee bills, including the very bill Senator SESSIONS has asked unanimous consent to move to—a bill which I quite likely will support.

Would the Senator be willing to modify his request to include the passage of other bills which are part of that package and have similarly important elements to them in terms of keeping America safe? They include the following: Calendar No. 246, S. 1792, the Strengthening Investigations of Sex Offenders and Missing Children Act; Calendar No. 233, S. 1793, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act; and discharging the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of S. 1696, the Dale Long Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvements Act; agreeing to a substitute amendment which is at the desk, and passing the bill, as amended?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate the suggestion by the Senator from Illinois, as I believe I will be able to support all those bills, but I have information that Senators on our side oppose or have objections to two of them and would like to offer amendments or modify them. So I am not able to agree on behalf of colleagues that all the bills would be passed as written.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, until the time comes—and I hope it is soon—when we can reach an agreement on all four bills, I will object to moving one bill in the package.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would note that the Presiding Officer is a cosponsor with myself of S. 1792, the Strengthening Investigations of Sex Offenders and Missing Children Act of 2011, and perhaps we will be able to make that work sooner or later. I am sure we will.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING FURMAN BISHER

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, this past weekend, Georgia lost a great citizen. Furman Bisher died in Fayetteville, GA, on Sunday afternoon of a tragic heart attack. He was the premier sports writer in the United States of America, covered every Super Bowl, every Masters, was at every major heavyweight fight.

From the day he started on his Royal manual typewriter until the day he died, he typed on that same manual typewriter that was over 60 years old. He was a brilliant writer, a compassionate individual, a great friend, and someone I looked up to very much. He was a pacesetter. He actually got the only interview of Shoeless Joe Jackson ever done by a reporter. He did it because of his cunning ability to be in the right place at the right time, and that twinkle in his eye that always made you want to take to Furman Bisher.

So as on the floor of the Senate today I pay tribute to Furman and his life, to all of his accomplishments in terms of the writing of sports in our State and around the world. To his family and loved ones, I extend my sympathy on behalf of not just myself but all of the citizens of Georgia.

IRISH E3 VISA BILL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon I had the honor of attending the annual Speaker's Luncheon celebrating the long and enduring partnership between the Irish and American people. Among the guests of honor were the President and Vice President and Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny. And this past Saturday, St. Patrick's Day, I joined Prime Minister Kenny, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to march in Chicago's annual St. Patrick's Day parade. As one of the 40 million Americans of Irish descent, the chance to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the Prime Minister of Ireland twice in 4 days is a rare joy.

At the parade on Saturday, Prime Minister Kenny hailed Chicago as "the most American of American cities." It is also the most Irish of American cities, home to the largest population of Irish-Americans in the United States. On St. Patrick's Day in Chicago, the river and the beer both run green and it seems that everyone is Irish either by heritage or simply by osmosis.

There is good reason that Americans of all backgrounds embrace St. Patrick's Day with such enthusiasm. From our earliest days as a nation, America and Ireland and America have been united by unbreakable bonds of friendship and family and by a shared commitment to liberty and freedom.

In fact, there might not be a United States of America were it not for the Irish. That is not just my opinion. That was the assessment of General George Washington and of Britain's Lord

Mountjoy, who, in a speech to Parliament declared plainly, "We have lost America through the Irish."

The largest ethnic group to sign the Declaration of Independence were those with Irish roots, Charles Dunlop of County Tyrone printed the first copies, and the first man to read it before Congress was Charles Thomson of Derry, Secretary of the Continental Congress. When the Continental Congress was in desperate need of finances, supporters in Dublin, Cork, and other Irish cities took up collections to help the struggling new nation. Irish-born generals ranked among Washington's most trusted officers and Irish soldiers formed the backbone of Washington's army. At Valley Forge, it is estimated that almost half the army was Irish.

In the more than 2 centuries since then, America has been enriched immeasurably by the contributions of the Irish and Irish-Americans in every field and every walk of life.

Twenty American Presidents—nearly half—can trace their lineage to Ireland, from George Washington to Barack Obama of the Kearneys of Moneygall. And the contributions go both ways. Just as the sons of Erin helped make George Washington America's first President, it was a son of America, Brooklyn-born Eamonn deValera, who, in 1921, became the first president of a free Ireland.

In December, Senators SCHUMER, LEAHY and I introduced an amendment that recognizes the special relationship between the United States and Ireland. Our Irish E3 visa amendment would allow a small number of Irish citizens—10,500 a year—to work in America for 2 years, pay taxes and contribute to Social Security.

Our proposal is an amendment to the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, which passed the House last November with overwhelming bipartisan support. Shortly after we introduced our amendment, my colleague from Illinois, Senator KIRK, and Senator BROWN of Massachusetts introduced a similar measure.

Our proposal is a common-sense measure that would improve the fairness and efficiency of our immigration system and further strengthen America's special relationship with Ireland, a nation to which we owe so much.

Our proposal has the support of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform, Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform headed by my friend Billy Lawless of Chicago, and many other organizations.

All 53 Democratic Senators—a solid majority of this Senate—have also pledged their support for our proposal. Despite this broad support inside and outside of Congress, at this time there is an objection on the Republican side to passing our bill.

We want to work with our Republican colleagues to break this impasse and create the Irish E3 visas this year. As Prime Minister Kenny has said, Ire-

land's economy will recover from its current difficulties. But with Irish emigration higher than it has been in decades, it is in the interests of both Ireland and America that we act now, without delay, to create a fair and legal way for Irish citizens to work temporarily in America.

Twenty-nine years ago, Speaker Tip O'Neill hosted the first St. Patrick's Day luncheon in Congress. His special guest at that first Speaker's St. Patrick's Day Luncheon was another Irish American leader who said, when he visited Ireland, "Today I come back to you as a descendant of people who were buried here in pauper's graves."

That special guest was President Ronald Reagan and that first Speaker's Luncheon was arranged to try to ease tensions between the two leaders, who embodied very different political traditions, but who shared a love of Ireland and of their Irish heritage.

The plan worked. While Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill never did see eye-to-eye on politics, they formed a respectful relationship that enabled them to work together in America's interest. So I ask our Republican friends: Let us walk in the footsteps of Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill and work together to pass the Irish E3 visa bill this year.

60TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator PRYOR and myself, I ask unanimous consent that the transcript of the 60th Annual National Prayer Breakfast be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Senator MARK PRYOR: Good morning. Thank you all for being here. It's great to have you here. I want to thank all of you for making your way to this very special event in the life of our country and our world. We invited you, and you came, and we appreciate it. When I say "we" I mean co-chair JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama and many of the members of the U.S. Congress who are the real life hosts of this breakfast this morning. On behalf of all of us, the House and the Senate members, we certainly want to say thank you for joining us here this morning and thank you for praying and for building friendships and to try to make this a better world.

Senator JEFF SESSIONS: As with all our Prayer Breakfasts over the last six decades, we are gathering in the Spirit of Jesus of Nazareth. He was open, curious, compassionate, inclusive and humble—a good example for all of us in public life and for all of us living anywhere for that matter. He was loving, in a word, and that is the way to describe the spirit in which we attempt to gather in today.

Senator PRYOR: Let us just join together in the spirit of reverent prayer: God of the universe and of each and every one of us, we welcome your presence, your truth and your love to our event. Bless us we pray with the change of heart and change of mind we all need today. We love you and we want to draw near to you this morning.

Senator SESSIONS: In the spirit of love, I pray that everything we do and say from this head table and from around each table would be pleasing to you. Thank you for the good food and fellowship we enjoy at this breakfast and may your Spirit fill this great hall, Amen.

MARK and I and many, many others have been working on, and praying for, this remarkable breakfast for months now and we are all excited to share it with you. I think we have all had two different experiences of what can happen when we bring faith into the world of government and business. Sometimes it creates conflict and when we look at our planet's history, even wars. But at other times, more often really, true faith can be a reconciling force of amazing power, a power that can make an entire society better. As Ambassador Andrew Young said last night at the Southeastern dinner, the civil rights movement, the non-violent movement that overcame bigotry and hatred in a way that could not have been done any other way, was done in the Spirit of Jesus.

We all have somewhat different religious histories. In my faith walk as I studied the life of Jesus, it seems His approach was always to see the people who are considered to be outsiders, or who had withdrawn, He tried to bring them all in. All those lepers, Samaritans and disabled people and poor people and folks like the woman at the well—they had been pushed out, or had withdrawn, but Jesus brought them in. I think that is the kind of approach we want to embrace in this breakfast and everything that flows out of it. We want to bring everyone in and to be in harmony with God's will and to share in God's love.

Senator PRYOR: Senators have been meeting in a breakfast group for over six decades now. As friends, we gather to pray every Wednesday when the Senate is in session. To give you a picture of how long that group has been in existence, the Senate breakfast group has met about one time for every person in this room. We come together to pray for each other and work for the Senate and of course for the country. Once a year we invite you all into the fellowship together to pray for world leaders and especially for our President.

Some of you have heard that things can be better in Congress and that is true. I think a good place to start would be to remember just a few simple, yet powerful words. Love one another as I have loved you. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. We don't need a constitutional amendment or some big Congressional reform, we just need to start acting better and Jesus gives us the place to start. It's simple but it's hard. We need to love and pray for people who disagree with us. We hope you will be loving and be praying for us and with us this morning in this special time today and when you return home.

I have a letter from a very special friend of ours and he writes to the folks who are attending the National Prayer Breakfast.

Letter from Rev. Billy Graham read by Senator PRYOR:

I want to convey my personal greetings to each of you assembled this morning for the National Prayer Breakfast. I miss being with you all, having been a part of this annual event sponsored by the House and Senate prayer group since the very beginning, often as a speaker. Though age and health prevent me from being there in person, I am with you in spirit and you are in my heart.

I want to say a special word of encouragement to the many friends meeting today from across the country and across the world, especially President Obama and his wife Michelle and Vice President JOSEPH