

San Francisco. Quote the Alaska Native people who live there.

I will make two final points. As you can tell, this is very important to me. You know we have a couple of Members of Congress—I forget this one guy's name from Arizona—GRIJALVA, I think. He was saying the Alaskan people don't want it; Alaska Natives don't want it. He said that yesterday. He has a new member on his committee, MARY PELTOLA, Congresswoman from Alaska, who is an Alaska Native. Maybe you should ask MARY what she thinks about this project instead of spouting off on an issue.

Unfortunately, I have one colleague here—I am not going to get into it. He knows who he is. He makes it his life's work to go after Alaska, including this one. I will give a speech later on the hypocrisy of that action.

I want to just quote the voice of the Arctic Inupiat, a group of Native leaders. Here, they sum up what happened yesterday, what the media kind of highlighted while, literally, canceling the voice of the people in Alaska. Here is what they say:

Outside activist groups opposing Willow have drowned out local perspectives—

That is what happened in the press reports yesterday.

and are actively working to supersede the views of the Alaska Native people. This is not environmental justice or any other kind of justice.

When you put that back to a Biden administration official and say: You guys care about environmental justice, racial justice, racial equity that you talk about all the time, what about my constituents? Every time I have asked that question of a Biden administration official, they look at me blank: Hmm, I don't know how to answer that.

The indigenous people of my State want this project, undeniably. Our friends in the media won't write that story.

It is a direct attack on Alaska Native self-determination.

This is the voice of the Arctic Inupiat. Like I said, I am going to be coming down here talking about this because it is really important for my State and really important for America.

A final point, too. I frequently make the argument—some of my Democratic colleagues don't like it—you know, on these kinds of issues, the Democratic Party that used to be for the working men and working women of America, the people who build things, kind of migrated, kind of left the working men and women out. If the far-left environmental groups want something, they almost always go with them, not the working men and women of America.

This will be a test for the administration. You say you want to support the working men and women and the Indigenous people in my State? This is an easy answer—easy answer. Look at the supporters.

So I hope we can get there. Thirty days is going to be a battle, but I hope

our friends in the media, when they are writing about this in the next few weeks, don't cancel the voices of Alaskans, don't cancel the voices of the Alaskan Native people, the Indigenous people. Hear from them. I know you have a bias against a project like this, but listen to the people I represent. They are great people, and they are very clear that they are supporting the Willow project, as am I, as is Senator MURKOWSKI, as are, by the way, a lot of my colleagues in a bipartisan way. I thank them again. This is going to be really important. And it doesn't just matter to Alaska; it matters to America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore of the United States Senate.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it was 30 years ago to this very day that I came here to give one of my first speeches on the Senate floor, and I talked about a friend of mine back in Washington State. She was a mom. She had just gotten heartbreaking news. Her son was dying of leukemia. And then another gut punch: Her employer told her she had to choose between being in the hospital with her son or being at her job, and if she wasn't there, she was going to lose it.

To this day, that makes me so angry. No one should face such a cruel decision. No one should ever be forced to choose between taking care of themselves and their loved ones and being able to make ends meet.

So at the time, 30 years ago, I was on the floor to urge my colleagues to pass the Family and Medical Leave Act, which provided job-protected, unpaid leave to workers across the country, because the bottom line was that every worker should know that if they have a family emergency, they can prioritize their family's health without jeopardizing their family's economic security.

I was so thrilled when, just a few days later, we won, and that bill became law. But even back then, it was clear that bill was just a first step. It was clear we needed to keep fighting for the next one. And I am still here, and I am still fighting because we are way behind where we should be. We are way behind our peers in the world when it comes to giving working families the support they need, and it is holding us back.

For one thing, there are still too many loopholes that leave people without the simple promise of unpaid leave. Too many workers today in this country are denied the basic protections of the Family and Medical Leave Act that we passed into law 30 years ago. I have been fighting to close those loopholes and expand protections for decades so workers are not left out in the cold during an emergency just because they work at a small business or they work part time or just because their family might look little different—for example, if they are a caregiver for a niece

or a nephew or a grandchild. No one should be punished for that. So it is time that we pass legislation to guarantee that those workers get the same protections as everybody else.

Let me be clear. Passing bills to do this, that is just updating our laws to guarantee unpaid leave for all. That is just making good on the promise we made to workers 30 years ago. In other words, that is just the next step, but it is far from the last one. Our families need a lot more. They deserve so much better. There is no excuse for our utter lack of a national paid leave program. It is bad for families, as any working mom or dad can tell you or anyone who cares for a family member with a serious health condition. They know this all too well.

By the way, it is bad for our economy because the lack of paid leave means that employees lose their wages and businesses lose their workers. We are facing serious workforce shortages in key sectors of our economy today. Let me tell you, the lack of a national paid leave program is not helping; it is hurting. We are the only Nation among our peers that has not figured that out yet. We are the only one that hasn't gotten this done. The reality is, it makes our economy less competitive on the world stage. But you don't have to look at other countries to see how urgent this is; just listen to people right here.

I shared my friend's story all those years ago, but today, across the country, there are still so many families facing unthinkable choices. There are still so many people—working moms in particular—sharing their own deeply personal stories about this, stories of the painful recovery after giving birth and the incredibly special but, let's face it, pretty tough first weeks of bonding with a newborn child; stories of the grief and the pain of caring for a seriously ill child; sitting at a hospital bedside of a seriously ill parent recovering from surgery or coping with a cancer diagnosis; with the added stress, at that hardest time of your life, about how you are going to make your next month's rent if you have to take unpaid time off of work. Anyone who has been in those situations knows it is hard. You have so much you are worried about.

Here in Congress, we should be working to make that an easier time for families. We should be taking that worry off of parents' shoulders. We should be making sure that no worker has to choose between their family and their job, between their family and their paycheck.

So as we mark the anniversary today of the Family and Medical Leave Act, I want to urge my colleagues, let's celebrate the legacy of that bill, of course, by building on it. Let it be this Congress that we finally, at long last, take the much-needed next steps that families have been waiting for, that they have been calling for. Let's ensure that the Family and Medical Leave Act protects all working families. Let's establish a national paid leave program.

Let's tackle the childcare crisis with bold reforms. Let's build an economy that actually works for our families here.

Now, I want to end today with the same words that I actually said 30 years ago right here on the Senate floor:

If one mother is able to sit with her seriously ill son without fear of losing her life savings, if one son is able to hold the hand of his dying mother, if one of us—you or I—is able to care for someone we love when they need us the most, then the time and the energy spent on [these issues has been] worth it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 3.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 3, DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Luján, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID W. CARLE

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, the January 26, 2023, issue of “Roll Call” included an interview with David Carle, who is retiring from the Senate after 45 years as a congressional press secretary, the last 26 years as Senator Leahy’s communications director. I want to pay tribute to David, who long remained out of the limelight but who played an indispensable role, day in and day out, translating the often arcane business of the Congress into concise, coherent prose for Vermonters and countless others in this country and around the world.

As the interview notes, David arrived at Senator Leahy’s office after serving for 12 years in a similar capacity for Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, whom David admired greatly. In fact, when Senator Leahy retired on January 3, David was the longest serving press secretary in U.S. Senate history. That is an extraordinary accomplishment and a testament to his devotion to his work, to the Congress, and to the country.

An outstanding writer and editor, David was always attuned to the interests of Vermonters and the political sensitivities of controversial issues and votes. He not only brought an inherent talent for communicating in plain-spoken and compelling language, but underlying everything he wrote was a deep commitment to defending the principles this country stands for, particularly the First Amendment.

David was also a mentor to aspiring communications staff, who under his tutelage learned the nuts and bolts of interfacing with traditional and social media outlets. Several of them have gone on to become communications directors for other Members of Congress.

The people of Vermont owe David their thanks, as do all of us in the Congress who have benefited from his unflinching example of professionalism, dedication, and integrity.

I ask unanimous consent that the Roll Call interview with David Carle be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Roll Call, Jan. 26, 2023]

AFTER 45 YEARS ON THE HILL, DAVID CARLE HAS SEEN IT ALL
(By Jim Saksa)

When David Carle started out as a press secretary on the Hill, the mimeo machine was still in the attic of Longworth and Democrats still dominated in places like Utah.

When the longtime aide retired this month, only three lawmakers could beat his 45 years of service: his (also retiring) boss Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., plus Sens.

Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Edward J. Markey, D-Mass.

In between, fax machines came and went, along with thousands of his fellow staffers, but Carle stuck with Congress.

Carle spent the last 26 years at Leahy’s side as his communications director, where he witnessed firsthand how both the Senate and the media that covers it have changed, for good and ill.

Carle took a few moments to reflect on his lifetime in the Capitol with CQ Roll Call late last year. He shared what first drew him to Congress and what kept him there for so long.

Q: What drew you to Congress?

A: I’ve been on the Hill since 1977. I was born in Utah, but moved away to Ohio when I was 5. My dad initially was the press secretary for Akron Public Schools, and so journalism was always in my blood.

I took advantage of a lot of internships in college and graduate school. I was a governor’s intern in Utah, and I won an internship with the Deseret News. Later I worked at the big powerhouse Clear Channel station in Salt Lake City.

So I’ve always had an interest in both politics and journalism. Back then it was less common to cross over between the two, and I was concerned about that.

Q: How did you end up making the leap?

A: Over the summer of ‘77, I had a fellowship at the Interior Department. I thought I would only be in Washington for a little while, so I literally went to every single Smithsonian museum and took in as much as I could.

The fellowship was running out, and I was due to go back to graduate school that fall. I thought, well, let me just sound out somebody I’ve admired in the Utah delegation, Gunn McKay.

Back then, if you can believe it, Utah had a three-to-one Democratic majority in Congress, and now it’s become one of the most Republican states. I was hired as a press assistant. I still belong to Sigma Delta Chi, the journalism fraternity, but I’ve stayed in politics ever since.

Q: What made you stay? You could have cashed out.

A: That’s a common pattern with communications directors: work here for a while and then move downtown to a public affairs firm. But I’ve always been more interested in working in government. For those firms, you have several bosses, several clients. I liked finding somebody I really respected.

Q: You’ve been here longer than most actual senators. What’s it been like seeing this institution evolve and change?

A: When I first started with [Illinois Democratic Rep.] Paul Simon, he had a weekly column. He was a publisher of a small newspaper in Illinois. And my job as press secretary was to take the column up in the dark, hot attic of the Longworth Building where we had a mimeo machine and also an addressograph, where you put cards in and the envelopes are addressed.

There was a lot of manual labor involved with being a press secretary back then. You were dealing with newspapers and TV stations by mail, and sometimes by fax—you know, those stinky round machines that you clip a page in, turn it on and it spins, and then it’s got coated paper that stinks. We also used alligator clips on a regular phone to send radio actualities to radio stations.

When Paul moved over to the Senate in 1985, we had a dozen major media markets in Illinois, and all of them had a presence in Washington. The Sun-Times alone had 17 people at one point in their bureau. And now it’s down to one person, Lynn Sweet. But there has also been an explosion of other news organizations, given what’s happened