

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 Lujan, 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

with the internet. I think there are more reporters covering the Hill in one way or another now than there were back then.

Q: Your next job was with Leahy, and you worked for him for 26 years. What moments stand out?

A: After the plane hit the Pentagon on 9/11, we [evacuated the Capitol] and walked to my house a few blocks away. It was the senator and a few other senior aides, and all we could do was watch television to try to find out what was happening. This was before everyone had BlackBerries.

He tended to have people stay longer on staff than other senators do. And he also had a reputation for attracting good people, like John Podesta, who went on to be Bill Clinton's chief of staff, and George Tenet, who went on to be CIA director.

It was very rewarding to work with him on what I call the white hat projects, like the Innocence Protection Act and the landmine crusade.

I've been on very few CODELs, but the first one I went on was to Ottawa, where Lloyd Axworthy, the foreign minister of Canada, picked up on Leahy's legislation—the first in the world to ban the export of landmines. And Leahy still pesters every president to sign the Mine Ban Treaty. Some recent Democratic presidents have inched toward that, but there's always a big carveout for South Korea.

Q: How do you feel about the direction things are going on the Hill?

A: I feel, as Sen. Leahy does, as he said in his farewell speech, that the Senate in some ways is broken. It was never perfect—he entered at a time when segregationists were running committees, and he was part of the reform effort that Walter Mondale led to bring the filibuster threshold down from 67 to 60.

But now we have the rancor and the bumper sticker politics, with people playing for a soundbite. Senators don't spend as much time with each other and each other's families as they used to, and the filibuster is abused.

Q: You're still playing press secretary, after all these years. What are your own thoughts on where Congress is headed?

A: When I was in ninth grade, our English class learned what propaganda is and how to look at sources. So I'm kind of shocked at how little media literacy there is these days. I think people need to be more discriminating consumers of news. I'm concerned about anti-science bias and media literacy.

Q: What's next for you?

A: My dad is 92 years old, so I'll spend more time with him. And I'll do some writing.

I've enjoyed the work. I'm a generalist by nature, and being a press secretary, you have the opportunity to learn something new every day. I feel so grateful for this experience that I had. This has been a dream job with a dream boss, working on issues that really made a difference. And I'll never tire of seeing the Capitol lit up at night.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING QUENTIN "Q" WILLIAMS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Quentin "Q" Williams, a dedicated public servant, advocate, and friend to many. Tragically, State Representative Williams passed away on January 5, 2023, at the age of 39. He will be remembered for his commitment to Connecticut and passion for helping others.

A lifelong resident of Middletown, CT, Q was killed in an automobile accident just one day after being sworn in for a third term as State representative, a beautiful life cut tragically short, a bright light extinguished.

Raised by a single mother in Middletown, Q accomplished so much in his short career. After graduating from Middletown Public Schools, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bryant University, and a master of public administration from Villanova University—excellent preparation for a professional career dedicated to serving others.

Q began his career in community banking in Hartford before pursuing nonprofit management. In 2012, he was named executive director of the Middletown Downtown Business District and launched the community's first "Middletown Restaurant Week," enhancing the community and economic vitality of the city's Main Street. Q served as director of advocacy and policy for Excellence Community Schools, a charter school network, and co-founded EquityCT, an education nonprofit. He was also active in many charitable and service organizations with a generous spirit that served him well in public service.

In 2019, Q was elected as the first Black State legislator from Middletown. As State representative, Q took great pride in championing social and racial equality, human rights, and accessible housing. He supported youth programs to help the next generation prepare for successful futures. There is no telling where Q's energy and passion could have taken him and how much good he would have continued to do for his community and the state of Connecticut.

At two recent church ceremonies, in Middletown and Bloomfield, friends and colleagues of Q's spoke of his love and loyalty, his jovial spirit, and deeply genuine generosity. At the time of his death, Representative Williams was looking forward to serving as the new house chair of the labor and public employees committee. Over the last several weeks, at ceremonies honoring him, I have spoken to his wonderful family. I have been among scores of people paying their respects to Q—a stirring testament to his positive impact.

My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to Q's family during this difficult time, particularly to his wife Carrissa and mother Queen. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Q's life and legacy, both large and lasting.●

##### RECOGNIZING RED OAK FABRICATION

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, in my new position as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I have the honor of recognizing an outstanding Iowa small business that ex-

emplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. It is my privilege to recognize Red Oak Fabrication of Red Oak, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week for the week of January 30, 2023.

As you will often see across our great State, small businesses and families go hand-in-hand in Iowa. Red Oak Fabrication of Montgomery County is no different. Red Oak Fabrication was founded in 1913 under the name Pike Machine Shop. A short decade later, management would decide to adopt the name that still stands today: Red Oak Fabrication. In 1928, Ted Fort began working at Red Oak as one of three employees. Through hard work and persistence, he purchased half interest in the company in 1944 and eventually purchased the remaining to own full interest in 1948. Watching their father's growing success within the business, it was not long before Ted's sons Bill and Jack, both veterans of World War II, decided to join the fold in 1946 and 1947 respectively. Bill was responsible for starting the outside sales of oxygen and welding supplies, while Jack joined the sales team. Ted's two sons proved to be great additions to the company, especially as the Fort family's involvement in Red Oak Manufacturing extended beyond the second generation.

The third generation of the Fort family working at Red Oak Fabrication began in 1978 when Ted's grandson Jeff Fort started as a route truck driver. Jeff eventually took over the business in 1992 and made a big splash in 1993 when he purchased a plasma table, the company's first. Jeff's son, Jacob Fort, started in 2001 following his graduation from college, ushering in the fourth generation of Forts. Jacob got his start working in indoor and outdoor sales. Jacob left the company in 2005, but returned in 2014 and now handles business development and purchasing, leading the activities at the north location. Jordan Fort, another one of Jeff's sons, began working at Red Oak Fabrication as a freshman in high school in 2004. He worked at his family's business every summer until his sophomore year of college. He now handles the powder coating as well as purchasing. In 2022, Justin Fort joined the business working in operations following a decade of work in cutting equipment manufacturing and production welding equipment sales.

You can find Red Oak Fabrication in three locations in Montgomery County, a north, south, and central location. The central location is where the company started and is where the machining centers, as well as a Carhartt store is located. The north facility provides powder coating, plate rolling, manual and robotic welding, while the south location has their plate processing equipment. Starting as a two truck operation, Red Oak Fabrication has grown to include three plasma tables, two laser tables, and one water jet table. Clearly, a strong sense of business acumen runs in the Fort family as Ted's children, grandchildren, and even