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No. 1

Senate

The fourth day of January being the day prescribed by House Concurrent Resolution 531 for the meeting of the 1st Session of the 109th Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol and at 12:01 p.m. was called to order by the Vice President [Mr. CHE-NEY].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us bow reverently as we pray.

Sovereign God, Creator and sustainer of us all, our hearts ache for the tsunami victims and for all touched by this tragedy. In our sadness, our eyes turn to You. We confess that we do not fully understand why bad things happen to good people. Nonetheless, by faith, we believe that You can carve tunnels of hope through mountains of despair.

Lord, make us Your eyes, ears, feet, and hands to bring solace to those who suffer. Guide us as we seek to help the hurting and empower the global humanitarian effort. Comfort those who mourn, and strengthen the widows and orphans.

Today, bless our 109th Congress. Give our new Senators wisdom and courage as You order their steps. Help them trust You so completely that Your will may be done on Earth.

We pray this in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The VICE PRESIDENT led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, these last 9 days have brought upon each of us, our fellow Americans, and, indeed, the entirety of the civilized world profound sadness and sympathy. We both as individuals and as a body will speak later today about the epic tragedy in Southern Asia that has taken upwards of 150,000 lives. But for now, I would like to begin our session by taking a moment of silence to show respect for those who lost their lives and our sincere hope that the loved ones left behind may heal.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senate will observe a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence.)

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificates of election of 34 Senators elected for 6-year terms beginning on January 5, 2005. All certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate or contain all the essential requirements of the form suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the above-mentioned certificates will be waived, and they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

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

STATE OF INDIANA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November 2004, Evan Bayh was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Indiana a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Joseph E. Kernan, and our seal hereto affixed

at Indianapolis, this the eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, 2004.

By the Governor:

JOSEPH E. KERNAN,
Governor.

STATE OF UTAH

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, 2004, Robert F. Bennett was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Utah a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning at noon on the third day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Salt Lake City, this 29th day of November, 2004.

OLENE S. WALKER,
Governor.

STATE OF MISSOURI

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Christopher "Kit" Bond was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Missouri, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness His Excellency our Governor Bob Holden and our seal hereto affixed at 11:00 a.m. this 1st day of December, in the year of the Common Era 2004.

BOB HOLDEN,
Governor.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States of America:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Barbara Boxer was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of California a Senator from said State to represent California in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 14th day of December 2004.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
Governor.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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STATE OF KANSAS

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Samuel D. Brownback was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Kansas, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2005.

Witness: Her Excellency our Governor Kathleen Sebelius, and our seal hereto affixed at Topeka, Kansas this 29th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS,
Governor.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

Know Ye That, Honorable Jim Bunning having been duly certified, that on November 2, 2004 was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Kentucky a Senator from said state to represent said state in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd day of January 2005.

I hereby invest the above named with full power and authority to execute and discharge the duties of the said office according to law. And to have and to hold the same, with all the rights and emoluments thereunto legally appertaining, for and during the term prescribed by law.

In testimony whereof, I have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the Commonwealth to be hereunto affixed. Done at Frankfort, the 23rd day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and four and in the 213th year of the Commonwealth.

By the Governor:

ERNIE FLETCHER,
Governor.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Richard Burr was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of North Carolina, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capital City of Raleigh, this the 3rd day of December, 2004.

MICHAEL F. EASLEY,
Governor.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Tom Coburn was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Oklahoma, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Brad Henry, and our seal hereto affixed at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma this 12th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

BRAD HENRY,
Governor.

STATE OF IDAHO

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Mike Crapo was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Idaho a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Dirk Kempthorne, and our seal hereto affixed at Boise this 17th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

DIRK KEMPTHORNE,
Governor.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, 2004, the Honorable James W. DeMint was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of South Carolina, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Mark Sanford, and our seal hereto affixed at Columbia, South Carolina this eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, 2004.

MARK SANFORD,
Governor.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, two thousand and four, Christopher J. Dodd was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Connecticut Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January two thousand and five.

Witness: Her Excellency our Governor, M. Jodi Rell and our seal hereto affixed at Hartford, this twenty-fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and four.

M. JEDI REL,
Governor.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
 CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

At the General Election held on the 2nd day of November 2004, Bryon L. Dorgan was elected to the office of United States Senator for the State of North Dakota. The 6-year term of office begins at noon on January 3, 2005.

In witness whereof, we have set our hands at the Capitol City of Bismarck this 18th day of November 2004, and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Dakota.

JOHN HOEVEN,
Governor.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Russ Feingold was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Wisconsin a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Jim Doyle, and our seal hereto affixed at Madison this 6th day of December, 2004.

By the Governor:

JIM DOYLE,
Governor.

STATE OF IOWA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Charles Grassley was duly elected as Senator to the Senate of the United States to represent the State of Iowa for a term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2005.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 1st day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand four.

THOMAS J. VILSACK,
Governor.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, two thousand and four, Judd Gregg was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New Hampshire to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the third day of January, two thousand and five.

Witness, His Excellency, Governor Craig Benson and the Seal of the State of New Hampshire hereto affixed at Concord, this first day of December, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and four.

By the Governor, with advice of the Council:

CRAIG BENSON,
Governor.

STATE OF HAWAII

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November 2004, Daniel K. Inouye was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Hawaii a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: Her Excellency our Governor, Linda Lingle, and our seal hereto affixed at Honolulu this twenty-second day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

LINDA LINGLE,
Governor.

STATE OF GEORGIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Johnny Isakson was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Georgia a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Sonny Perdue, and our seal hereto affixed at this 29th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

SONNY PERDUE,
Governor.

STATE OF VERMONT

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Patrick Leahy was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of

Vermont a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor James H. Douglas, and our seal hereto affixed at Montpelier this 9th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

JAMES H. DOUGLAS,
Governor.

STATE OF ARKANSAS

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Blanche Lambert Lincoln was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Arkansas, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed at this Capitol in Little Rock, on the 2nd day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

MIKE HUCKABEE,
Governor.

STATE OF FLORIDA

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Mel Martinez, was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Florida as Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Jeb Bush, and our seal hereto affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 14th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the governor:

JEB BUSH
Governor.

STATE OF ARIZONA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, John McCain was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Arizona a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd Day of January 2005.

Witness: Her excellency the Governor of Arizona, and the Great Seal of the State of Arizona, hereto affixed at the Capitol in Phoenix this 22nd day of November 2004.

JANET NAPOLITANO,
Governor.

STATE OF MARYLAND

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Barbara A. Mikulski was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Maryland a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd Day of January 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and our seal hereto affixed at the Capitol of Annapolis this 6th day of December, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

By the Governor:

ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.,
Governor.

STATE OF ALASKA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Lisa Murkowski was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Alaska, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd Day of January 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Frank H. Murkowski, and our seal hereto affixed at Juneau this 18th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Governor.

STATE OF WASHINGTON

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Patty Murray was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Washington a Senator from said State to represent said State beginning the 3rd day of January 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Gary Locke, and our seal hereto affixed at Olympia, Washington this 30th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

GARY LOCKE,
Governor.

STATE OF ILLINOIS

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, two thousand and four, Barack Obama was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Senate of Illinois, a Senator from said State, to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the third day of January, two thousand and five.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Rod R. Blagojevich, and our seal hereto affixed at the City of Springfield, Illinois this third day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand and four.

By the Governor:

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH,
Governor.

STATE OF NEVADA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

This is to certify that at a general election held in the State of Nevada on Tuesday, the second day of November, two thousand four, Harry Reid was duly elected a Member of the United States Senate, in and for the State of Nevada, for the term of six years from and after the third day of January, two thousand five:

Now, Therefore, I, Kenny C. Guinn, Governor of the State of Nevada, by the authority in me vested in the Constitution and laws thereof, do hereby commission him, the said Harry Reid as a Member of the United States Senate, for the State of Nevada, and authorize him to discharge the duties of said office according to law, and to hold and enjoy the same, together with all powers, privileges and emoluments thereunto appertaining.

In Testimony Thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol at Carson City, Nevada this seventh day of December, two thousand four.

KENNY C. GUINN,
Governor.

STATE OF COLORADO

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Ken Salazar was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Colorado a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Bill Owens, and our seal hereto affixed at Denver, Colorado, this 1st day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

BILL OWENS,
Governor.

STATE OF NEW YORK

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, two thousand four, Charles E. Schumer was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New York a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for a term of six years, beginning on the third day of January two thousand five.

Witness: His excellency our Governor George E. Pataki, and our seal hereto affixed at Albany, New York, this sixteenth day of December in the year two thousand four.

By the Governor:

GEORGE E. PATAKI,
Governor.

STATE OF ALABAMA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Richard C. Shelby was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Alabama a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Bob Riley, and our seal hereto affixed at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this 29th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

BOB RILEY,
Governor.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, 2004, Arlen Specter was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a United States Senator to represent Pennsylvania in the Senate of the United States for a term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Edward G. Rendell, and our seal hereto affixed at Harrisburg this fourteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord, 2004.

By the Governor:

EDWARD G. RENDELL,
Governor.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

This is to certify that on the second day of November, 2004, at the general election, John Thune was elected by the qualified voters of the State of South Dakota to the office of

United States Senator for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed at Pierre, the Capital, this 9th day of November, 2004.

M. MICHAEL ROUNDS,
Governor.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States

I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that, in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, on the 2nd day of November, 2004, David Vitter was elected by the qualified electors of the state of Louisiana a Senator to represent the state of Louisiana in the United States Senate for the term of six years, beginning at noon on the 3rd day of January 2005. The votes cast: 943,014 for David Vitter (Republican); 542,150 for Chris John (Democrat); 275,821 for John Kennedy (Democrat); 47,222 for Arthur A. Morrell (Democrat); 15,097 for Richard M. Fontanes (Other); 12,463 for R.A. "Skip" Galan (Other) and 12,289 for Sam Houston Melton, Jr. (Democrat) are on file and of record in the Office of the Secretary of State of Louisiana.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 19th day of November, 2004.

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO,
Governor.

STATE OF OHIO

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, George V. Voinovich was duly elected by the qualified electors of the State of Ohio as the Senator from said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2005.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the great seal of the State of Ohio to be hereto affixed at Columbus, Ohio, this 6th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

BOB TAFT,
Governor.

STATE OF OREGON

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Ron Wyden was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Oregon, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Theodore Kulongoski, and our seal hereto affixed at Salem, Oregon this 2nd day of December, 2004.

By the Governor,

THEODORE KULONGOSKI,
Governor.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senators to be sworn will now present

themselves at the desk in groups of four as their names are called in alphabetical order, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The clerk will read the names of the first group.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BOND, and Mrs. BOXER.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HATCH, Mr. TALENT, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will read the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, and Mr. COBURN.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. DOLE, former Senator Helms, Mr. INHOFE, and former Senator Nickles, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DORGAN.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. CONRAD, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. INOUE.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. KOHL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. AKAKA, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. MARTINEZ.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. CHAMBLISS, former Senator Mattingly, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, former Senator Hawkins and former Senator Brock, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. MURRAY.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. KYL, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. STEVENS, former Senator Murkowski, and Ms. CANTWELL, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. SCHUMER.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ALLARD, and Mrs. CLINTON, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. VITTER.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. JOHNSON, former Senator Abdnor, and Ms. LANDRIEU, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will read the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. VOINOVICH and Mr. WYDEN.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. DEWINE and Mr. SMITH, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice

President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The absence of quorum having been suggested, the clerk will call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 1, Leg.]

PRESENT—92

Akaka	Domenici	McCain
Alexander	Dorgan	McConnell
Allard	Durbin	Mikulski
Allen	Ensign	Murkowski
Baucus	Enzi	Murray
Bayh	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Frist	Obama
Bond	Graham	Pryor
Boxer	Grassley	Reed (RI)
Brownback	Gregg	Reid (NV)
Bunning	Hagel	Roberts
Burr	Harkin	Salazar
Cantwell	Hatch	Santorum
Chafee	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Chambliss	Inhofe	Schumer
Clinton	Inouye	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith
Coleman	Johnson	Snowe
Collins	Kohl	Specter
Conrad	Kyl	Stabenow
Corryn	Landrieu	Stevens
Corzine	Lautenberg	Sununu
Craig	Leahy	Talent
Crapo	Levin	Thomas
Dayton	Lieberman	Thune
DeMint	Lincoln	Vitter
DeWine	Lott	Voinovich
Dodd	Lugar	Wyden
Dole	Martinez	

ABSENT—8

Biden	Carper	Rockefeller
Burns	Kennedy	Warner
Byrd	Kerry	

The VICE PRESIDENT. A quorum is present.

The majority leader is recognized.

SERVING IN THE SENATE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me welcome everyone here and everyone watching at home to the Chamber of the U.S. Senate and to this historic first day of the 109th Congress.

When the Senate family gathers, it is always a special occasion. But this is a day when the entire Senate family comes together and celebrates this unique institution that indeed binds us as one.

So, for being here, I thank the distinguished Members of the Senate—past, present, and near future—Senate friends and our beloved families, and our loyal and hardworking Senate staff.

My colleagues, our roots as representatives of the people are not recent. They are ancient. They reach be-

yond the founding of our Republic, to our earliest days as colonies. The first legislative assembly in the New World gathered during the scorching summer months of 1619 on Jamestown Island, Virginia. Twenty-two burgesses, a governor and his council, a clerk, and a sergeant of arms met to propose and pass “just laws for the happy guiding and governing of the people . . .”

If you visit Jamestown today, you can still see the stone foundation of the church where that first assembly conducted its business. It is on those rocks that this House in which we stand today was built.

Over the course of nearly four centuries, the seeds of American democracy have swept across oceans and over mountains and through jungles and deserts, taking root in land barren of the supposed “prerequisites” for self-government. These seeds have grown into what President Reagan boldly called at the height of our war against Soviet totalitarianism “a not-at-all-fragile flower.”

As U.S. Senators, we, with our colleagues in the House and our respected President, are the stewards of this ancient and yet still living and thriving tradition. And this, my friends, is no small burden to bear.

The American people—and indeed the people of the world—look upon this Capitol and those of us who serve here for inspiration and leadership and unwavering devotion to our common cause.

So what is expected of us over the course of the next 2 years? What is our duty as the 100 Members of the world’s greatest deliberative body, the U.S. Senate?

We all take the same oath to support and defend the same sacred document. So, first and foremost, we are obligated—as individuals, as equals and, above all, as a body—to discharge our Constitutional duties.

We also have, as Senator Mike Mansfield once said, “a primary responsibility to the people whom [we] represent to face the legislative issues of the nation.”

And I would add not just the issues of today, but the issues of tomorrow. This Senate must lead today on tomorrow’s challenges.

Lastly, we have what our longest serving Member, ROBERT C. BYRD, calls “the duty beyond our duties.” It is, as he so eloquently and accurately once stated: “The duty to endeavor to inspire others and to demonstrate, through personal example, that public service of all types ought to be an honorable calling.”

Senator BYRD, I too believe public service is an honorable calling. And, my fellow Senators, you are all honorable men and women. It is a privilege both to serve with you and to serve you as majority leader. God bless you, our proceedings, the country we love, and the people we all aspire to faithfully represent.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Democratic leader is recognized.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the remarks of the Republican leader, and I think there is no better example of public service than BILL FRIST, a person who, if not the most prominent transplant surgeon in the country, is one of the most prominent transplant surgeons in the country, and he decided to become involved in public service and he has done it very well.

I repeat, there isn’t a better example of public service than the leader.

When I was less than a week old, my father was working in the mine in Chloride, AZ. It was a short way over the river from Searchlight. He was working in a vertical shaft. They were sinking a shaft. He was working with another man by the name of Carl Myers. They drilled holes and set the dynamite charges. In those days they did not have all the product liability protection we have today.

He lit the 10 fuses. One of them went off way before it was supposed to. He was hurt very badly. It blew him into the air, blew the soles off his shoes. He was in a state of shock. He knew he had to get out of there because the other holes were burning. When they were sinking the shaft, they had a 10-foot ladder they would bring down, take it out when they climbed out of the hole, and leave it at the next level. He knew he had to get out of there. He put the ladder down and it would keep falling. He did not realize a leg of the ladder had blown off and when he tried to climb out, it would fall.

On the next level was Carl Myers. He knew one of the holes went off; he knew there were nine others. He did something heroic, to say the least. He could not stop the other holes from going off because they were covered with muck at the time, covered with dirt. So Carl Myers climbed down. He was a smaller man than my dad. My dad was 6 feet tall and probably weighed 185 pounds. He carried him up to the next level and saved his life. As soon as he got up there, the holes went off.

I tell this story because the acts of one man did much. Among other things, it allowed my mother not to be a widow, allowed her to have a husband and a father for three boys. Later, another brother came into the family.

Carl Myers received a Carnegie medal for heroism for what he did to save my father’s life. Lowell Thomas wrote about this episode involving my father. He quoted Carl Myers as saying: To hell with the medal, Harry’s alive, isn’t he?

Carl Myers, from the time I was a little boy being raised in Searchlight, was a hero to me. Because of his decision our family was allowed to function.

Actions of U.S. Senators and the President of the Senate have consequences, just as Carl's actions had consequences. In the Senate we make decisions. We have a lot more time to make these decisions than Carl had deciding to go back down in the hole. The decisions we make touch the lives of Americans. People all over America are affected by what we do in the Senate.

The citizens are counting on the Senate to make sure public schools are institutions that we as Americans are proud of. The American people are counting on us to make their life better by making medical care easier for them to come by. People are counting on the Senate so a child's ability to go to college will not be determined by how much money the parents have. People are counting on Congress to make sure Social Security is a stable fund they can depend on. People are counting on Congress to make sure the environment is good, so the water we drink is pure, the air we breathe is good. Women are depending on us. They are counting on us to make sure their wages are no longer 75 cents of every dollar we make as men. There is an article in the Washington Post today discussing a problem with more unintended pregnancies than we anticipated. They are depending on us to do something about that. Citizens are depending on us to make sure our fiscal house is in order. They are depending on us to do our work in a bipartisan fashion to effect change in our country to the good.

I spoke to Senator FRIST this past week. We are working on items for when we return in late January, items we can work on, on a bipartisan basis, to show the American people that, yes, we can work together. There are issues we can work on—maybe the highway bill. We did not do it last Congress; maybe we can do it this time. There are many other issues the leader and I talked about.

There are bipartisan opportunities, and I as the new Democratic leader speak on behalf of 45 Democratic Senators. We are here with our arms open to work with the administration, the Speaker, the Republican leader, to accomplish good for this country. There is much we can do that is going to make this country a better place.

Our decisions will affect the American people. We should never as a Senate forget that what we do has an impact on everyone.

I look forward to this new Congress, that we can forget what went on in the past, only call upon that which was positive in the past and look to the future with a greater day, a nicer day, a more pleasant day ahead.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. FRIST. I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 1) informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 1) reads as follows:

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider that vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Senate Resolution 1, the Chair appoints the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) as a committee to join the committee on the part of the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum is assembled and the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 2) informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 2) reads as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. FRIST. I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A resolution (S. Res. 3) fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 3) reads as follows:

Resolved, That the hour of daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING OF ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST. On behalf of myself, Senator REID, Senator LOTT, and Senator DODD, I send a concurrent resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) to provide for the counting on January 6, 2005, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) reads as follows:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, the sixth day of January 2005, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter "A"; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The chair appoints the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. LOTT, and the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, on the part of the Senate to count electoral votes.

TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. FRIST. I send a concurrent resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) to extend the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 93 and S. Con. Res. 94 for the 108th Congress.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is agreed do.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) reads as follows:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That effective from January 3, 2005, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 94 (108th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration, is hereby continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. Effective from January 4, 2005, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 93 (108th Congress), to authorize the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have 13 unanimous consent requests which have been cleared on the other side. The requests are the routine requests agreed to at the beginning of each Congress and include the allocation of leader time, floor privileges, the filing of reports, and the like. I now ask unanimous consent that the requests be agreed to en bloc and that the requests be printed separately as part of the RECORD.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The unanimous consent requests agreed to en bloc are as follows:

1. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate;

2. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, there be a limitation of 15 minutes each upon any rollcall vote, with the warning signal to be sounded at the midway point, beginning at the last 7½ minutes, and when rollcall votes are of 10-minute duration, the warning signal be sounded at the beginning of the last 7½ minutes;

3. That during the 109th Congress, it be in order for the Secretary of the Senate to receive reports at the desk when presented by a Senator at any time during the day of the session of the Senate;

4. That the Majority and Minority leaders may daily have up to 10 minutes each on each calendar day following the prayer and disposition of the reading of, or the approval of, the Journal;

5. That the Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives and his five assistants be given the privileges of the floor during the 109th Congress;

6. That, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXVIII, conference reports and statements accompanying them not be printed as Senate reports when such conference reports and statements have been printed as a House report unless specific request is made in the Senate in each instance to have such a report printed;

7. That the Committee on Appropriations be authorized during the 109th Congress to file reports during adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend rule XVI, pursuant to rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, which proposed amendments shall be printed;

8. That, for the duration of the 109th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate-passed bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House amendments to House bills or resolutions;

9. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment, the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States, and—with the exception of House bills, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions—messages from the House of Representatives; and that they be appropriately referred; and that the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Acting President pro tempore be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions;

10. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal Clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to rotate such staff members as space allows;

11. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day; and

12. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

13. That it not be in order to introduce bills or resolutions until January 24, 2005.

FINAL ASCERTAINMENT OF ELECTORS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate communications from the Archivist of the United States transmitting, pursuant to law, certified copies of the final ascertainment of the Electors for President and Vice

President, which are ordered to lie on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY AND PLEDGING SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI THAT STRUCK SOUTH ASIA, SOUTH-EAST ASIA, AND AFRICA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 4) expressing the sympathy and pledging the support of the United States Senate and the people of the United States for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, and other areas of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa, on December 26, 2004.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution and its preamble are considered and agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 4), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 4

Whereas on December 26, 2004, a tremendous earthquake, registered at 9.0 on the Richter scale and centered 100 miles off the coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered a deadly tsunami that swept throughout the Indian Ocean and beyond, devastating cities, towns, and communities, and killing or injuring persons in Southeast Asia and South Asia, through the island nations of the region, to Eastern Africa;

Whereas, as a result of the earthquake and ensuing tsunami, more than 140,000 people have lost their lives to date, tens of thousands of people are injured or missing, and the final death toll could climb into the hundreds of thousands;

Whereas the victims also include thousands of nationals who were visiting the region when the tsunami hit, including significant numbers from Europe and North and South America;

Whereas millions of people throughout Southeast Asia and South Asia have been left without food, shelter, or clean water, and now face deadly diseases such as cholera, dengue fever, dysentery, malaria, and typhoid;

Whereas thousands of children have been killed or injured, by this disaster;

Whereas, as a result of this tragedy, thousands of children have been separated from their families or orphaned and are in need of re-unification or adoption;

Whereas whole coastal communities and cities throughout the region were obliterated;

Whereas recovery, reconstruction, and clean-up of the devastated areas likely will take years, billions of dollars, and the concerted leadership of the United States working together with the international community;

Whereas the people of the United States immediately responded and expressed their sympathy and concern by sending financial aid and other assistance currently totaling more than \$100,000,000, through nongovernmental organizations and other means, to the victims of this disaster, and by offering to volunteer in the disaster rescue, recovery, and rebuilding;

Whereas soon after the earthquake and tsunami hit the region, the United States

Government expressed its condolences and invoked six disaster declarations for the nations hardest hit by this natural disaster, thus triggering the release of emergency funding to these countries;

Whereas less than 24 hours after these tragedies became known, the United States announced an initial pledge of \$15,000,000 for emergency humanitarian assistance, which was increased to \$35,000,000 in the following days as the scope of the tragedy unfolded;

Whereas President George W. Bush also dispatched more than 20 United States military cargo and patrol aircraft, redirected a Marine expeditionary unit and a carrier task force, and deployed several hundred United States military personnel to the region to assist with the disaster response, recovery, and delivery of relief supplies;

Whereas, in response to an early appeal by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for \$7,500,000, the United States provided \$4,000,000 for the distribution of emergency shelter materials and other relief commodities, and provided more than 3,000 metric tons of rice to the United Nations World Food Program for use in the affected region;

Whereas President George W. Bush has established a regional core group with Australia, Canada, India, Japan, and the Netherlands, with the United Nations, to help coordinate relief efforts, and sent a senior delegation of experts, led by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Florida Governor Jeb Bush, to meet with regional leaders and international organizations to assess what additional aid can be provided by the United States;

Whereas on December 31, 2004, President Bush increased the United States pledge to \$350,000,000 in aid and stated that the United States' contributions to disaster relief and recovery "will continue to be revised as the full effects of this terrible tragedy become clearer";

Whereas pledges of assistance from all international organizations, multilateral development banks, and governments, including the United States, now exceed \$2,000,000,000; and

Whereas, on January 3, 2005, the President appointed former Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton to lead a nationwide charitable fund-raising effort to elicit greater relief and assistance to the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck cities, towns, and communities throughout Southeast Asia, South Asia, Eastern Africa, and the region on December 26, 2004;

(2) conveys its most sincere condolences to the families, communities, and governments of the more than 140,000 people that lost their lives in this terrible natural disaster;

(3) expresses its gratitude and respect for the courageous and committed work of all aid and relief personnel, including United States military personnel, who are saving lives and providing relief assistance in the devastated areas of the region;

(4) supports President George W. Bush's pledge of \$350,000,000 in direct financial assistance, and tens of millions of dollars in additional indirect assistance through the dispatch of United States military aircraft, naval vessels, and personnel, and through the United States Government's substantial voluntary and annual contributions to international organizations and bodies;

(5) commends the ongoing international relief effort that includes the work of individual countries, numerous international or-

ganizations, and various relief and other nongovernmental entities;

(6) reaffirms that the United States Government is committed to providing relief and assistance in the most effective and efficient means possible, and will continue to assess, anticipate, and provide further assistance as needed in the weeks and months ahead;

(7) recognizes that the support of the United States Government will be greatly supplemented by private donations and assistance from thousands of United States citizens, charitable organizations, religious groups, and corporations that routinely provide generous and significant amounts of aid, support, and volunteers; and

(8) fully supports the long-term commitment and engagement of the United States to provide financial aid and other forms of direct and indirect assistance to the countries and peoples of the region impacted by the powerful earthquake and the devastating tsunami.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on the morning of December 26, one of the worst catastrophes the world has ever seen slammed the coast of Southeast Asia, South Asia, and eastern Africa.

Deep in the Indian Ocean, an enormous earthquake, estimated at a magnitude of 9.0 on the Richter Scale—possibly one of the most powerful earthquakes ever in history—caused a devastating tsunami which has now killed over 150,000 people, seriously injuring another half a million, and displacing as many as 5 million individuals from their demolished homes.

Thousands of people were literally washed out to sea as the enormous wall of water, traveling at speeds of up to 500 miles per hour in the open ocean, struck the coasts of the Indian Ocean Rim. As those waves receded, they took with them whole towns and villages. They took with them families on holiday, fishermen at sea, and children who had gone down to the beach that morning to play.

One only begins to comprehend the enormity of the tragedy as the individual stories emerge, as they have over the last several days, such as the father who helped his daughter climb on to the roof of their hotel and drowned in his act of heroism or the 13-year-old boy who held his grandmother afloat as long as he could before she succumbed to the waves.

The tragedy continues for these already devastated people. Survivors now face the "disaster after the disaster"—the risk of death from cholera, dysentery, malaria, typhoid, and diarrhea, all potentially on an epidemic scale. The lack of potable water and potential emergence of waterborne illnesses pose an enormous public health threat.

In the last week, I have spent hours on the phone with ambassadors from the affected countries, with senior U.S. officials and private citizens, to help coordinate some of those relief efforts. I am gratified—overwhelmed, in fact—by the generosity and commitment so many people have shown at every level, from local communities to our Government. Their outpouring of support and concern is truly remarkable.

One friend of mine, Carl Lindner, has a son who is putting together medical

and relief supplies on a 747 charter to India this week.

Franklin Graham and my friends from Samaritan's Purse are in the field right now with assessments and are investing heavily through Samaritan's Purse, especially in rural areas that are far from airports or far from towns or far from those areas we can reach as easily.

Condoleezza Rice and our U.S. officials are working tirelessly to coordinate our efforts.

Fred Smith's company, FedEx, is transporting 150,000 pounds of Pedialite formula donated by Ross Labs. The shipment was loaded onto a FedEx aircraft yesterday morning in Columbus, Ohio, and should arrive in Sri Lanka tomorrow.

And, of course, the American people have shown extraordinary compassion and sympathy and empathy. By their own initiative, private individuals and charities and nongovernment organizations and businesses have raised millions of dollars to aid the tsunami victims. I am filled with admiration for the compassion demonstrated by our fellow citizens.

As we return to Congress, we will act quickly on a clean tsunami supplemental. President Bush announced on Friday that America has pledged \$350 million in relief assistance, with \$15 million already speeding toward the hands of relief organizations in the affected countries. The administration will continue to revise this number as the full extent of the disaster becomes known.

American military ships, airplanes, and helicopters are right now delivering food. Over 48 helicopters right now are operating, delivering these medical supplies and food and water. Medicine, tents, water, ladders, food—all being delivered through the compassion of the international community. We have more than 20 patrol and cargo aircraft that have been made available to assess the disaster and deliver relief supplies. Twelve thousand of our men and women in uniform are working around the clock right now to reach survivors in remote corners of the region and to participate in the delivery of that relief. Evacuation helicopters are bringing stranded victims to safety.

The United States has set up a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week Disaster Response Command Center at the U.S. Agency for International Development headquarters here in Washington, along with regional coordination centers in Thailand and Sri Lanka. Together with governments from around the world, America is leading the largest international relief effort in history.

As we speak, a delegation, led by Secretary Colin Powell and Governor Jeb Bush, is meeting with leaders of the affected countries to show America's support and solidarity, and to determine how we can continue to be effective, to maximize our effectiveness.

Later tonight I too will travel to the region to survey the damage, spending

Thursday in Sri Lanka touring disaster sites and visiting hospitals, surveying our relief efforts, and lending my help wherever I can, including medical assistance. Following that, I and others will travel to the southeast coast of India on a similar mission.

The purpose of our trip is several fold: to assure the people of the region that we are engaged and fully committed. The Senate is taking these first steps as an institution by adopting the resolution expressing our sympathy for the countries and victims affected and promising our full support of America's relief efforts.

While in the region, we will also make a personal assessment of what U.S. assistance is needed and will have the opportunity to meet with leaders of the affected countries and ask personally how America can best help. I intend to ensure that aid is following as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Senate is taking its first step here today as we consider and adopt the Senate resolution expressing sympathy and pledging support to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the peoples of Southeast Asia, South Asia, the island nations of the region, and eastern Africa.

Senator REID and I have worked closely on this effort in a bipartisan manner to express the unanimous agreement of this body, the U.S. Senate.

I also thank Senator DICK LUGAR, who has shown steadfast leadership in this time of crisis and who has worked closely on this resolution with us as well. I know his committee in the coming weeks and months ahead will be delving into many matters relating to this disaster. We extend our great thanks to him.

Let me close my remarks by offering, on behalf of myself, the U.S. Senate, and the American people, our deepest sympathies to the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Our hearts and prayers are with you—the victims, the survivors, and their families. The struggle to recover will be long. We all know that. It will be difficult. There will be many sorrow-filled days as we learn the full impact of this tragedy, but throughout the United States will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of these devastated lands. We are determined to help rebuild their communities and restore their hope.

America is a great nation because it is a compassionate nation. It is our solemn commitment and obligation as a free people to share the blessing of liberty, especially with those who are so desperately in need.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the day after the tsunami, I had the opportunity to meet with scores of people from Southeast Asia. There were people from Sri Lanka. The person who put the event together was from Ban-

gladesh. We had people from Thailand, India, many people. It was an event in my honor. They had bought out a restaurant that night. It was a festive occasion, but there was a pall over what we were doing as a result of the tsunami that had taken place.

This tsunami was so difficult. These people in Reno, NV, had come to our country for the opportunity to realize their hopes and dreams. Each one of them love America, but of course they also feel an abiding love for their native lands and cultures.

I have trouble comprehending the power of nature. I read that the earthquake that took place was a million times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Nagasaki—not one thousand times, a million times. It was so powerful it threw off the Earth's rotation. This was a powerful act of nature.

In today's world, there is no such thing as an isolated event. It hit 11 countries. We are all connected to those countries. One hundred or so years ago that wouldn't have been the case. Fifty years ago it would have been less the case. The earthquake that caused the deadly tsunami was estimated at 9.0 on the Richter Scale. It was first picked up in Hawaii. They thought it was 8.0. I thought to myself, 8, 9, is that a big difference? It is 100 times different.

The President pro tempore is from Alaska. It is my understanding that the only earthquake in recent history that was stronger took place in Alaska. Fortunately, there were not a lot of people in Alaska and there wasn't the deadly tsunami that occurred following that earthquake.

We don't know the death toll. They found 6,000 more dead people yesterday, 9 or 10 days after the event. It is probably 150,000 and counting. Tens of thousands of people are missing. Millions have lost their homes. We are all affected by this catastrophic loss. We all share the anguish of a mother who lost a child, a father who lost a child. We feel the bewilderment and fear of children who lost their parents. That is why I am happy this resolution contains a paragraph dealing with adoption.

We all want to help. Since this tragedy took place 9 days ago, the world has seen an outpouring of aid for the victims of this tsunami. I spoke with the Democratic ranking member on the Finance Committee. He also has to deal with Senator GRASSLEY, the chairman. They are concerned that the outpouring of charity by the people of the United States will be recognized taxwise. We need to do that so they can get some benefit for the money they gave before the end of the year. I hope we can.

The American people have opened their hearts and wallets, donating millions of dollars to groups such as the Red Cross that are working to provide relief from this disaster. Two former Presidents with whom I had the good fortune of serving in the Congress, Bill

Clinton and George Bush the first, have agreed to lead the charitable efforts for the United States.

We got off to a slow start. There is no question about that. At the event I talked about in Reno, we talked about Secretary Powell's press conference where he said we were going to provide \$15 million. We were all terribly disappointed in that. I hoped that the Secretary didn't realize the full impact of the tragedy that had taken place. I couldn't imagine he would have done that had he known. Fifteen million is half as much as we are spending on the inaugural ceremonies this month. And then it took a while for the President to step forward. Let's put all that behind us. America has now stepped forward. I am proud of what we have done and what we are doing. We have a lot more to do.

I was glad to see the U.S. military, as stretched as we are, step forward with aircraft carriers and other resources that only the military can put forward. I listened to something on Public Radio today. It said that on one island in Indonesia, they had instructed the American helicopter pilots not to bring in any more wounded: People who are sick, we cannot take care of them. The American pilots brought them in anyway. As a result of that, the American military responded by setting up a field hospital that will take care of those people. We are doing a lot. We have more to do.

The magnitude of the disaster that befell this part of the world is unbelievable to most of us. I am glad that America is now responding. That is why this resolution is so important. We have increased our commitment. I have already talked about the aircraft, the ships, the helicopters that deliver the food and water and clothing. One of those aircraft carriers makes thousands and thousands of gallons of pure, fresh water every day. That will be taken off the aircraft carrier to people who have despoiled water, water that is contaminated.

The response of the American people and our Government is important for many reasons. Obviously, our efforts help relieve the suffering of these victims, but they also help show the world what kind of a nation and people we are. David Ignatius wrote a wonderful column in the Washington Post where he talked about our ability to respond to world situations when there is such a disaster. We are not going to be able to win the war against terror unless we are able to show the world that we are a country based upon laws, not men, that we are a charitable nation, that we are a nation that is concerned about people's rights, human rights.

If we are able to show by virtue of the example we are setting with the disaster that befell these 11 nations, we will be able to convert people who are sympathetic to evil terrorists. We have a lot of people who are sympathetic to what these evil terrorists are doing. With actions such as this, we will be

able to show to those people who are sympathetic to the terrorists that maybe their sympathy is not well placed. I am confident we can do that, and in the process we will win the war on terror that is being perpetrated against not only us but against the world.

I commend and applaud the majority leader for working to make the resolution the first order of legislative business in this session of Congress. It is important that we do that. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the tidal waves, tsunamis, that traversed the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific on December 26 have caused death and destruction in at least 12 countries, particularly India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The tsunami disaster constitutes a humanitarian tragedy of incredible proportions. Currently, experts estimate that more than 150,000 people have perished and countless people are injured. Millions are homeless and at risk from disease. These tragic numbers are expected to rise as we obtain additional information.

The United States is a compassionate country that will respond generously to this human catastrophe. Under the leadership of President Bush, the agencies and resources of the U.S. Government have been mobilized to assist in the initial humanitarian effort. In addition, innumerable individual Americans and U.S. businesses have donated millions of dollars directly to international relief efforts. As the world leader in international disaster assistance, the United States must work closely with the international community to implement the most effective response possible in the coming weeks and months.

Beyond the compelling humanitarian reasons for swift action, a stable and prosperous Asia is essential to the global effort on a range of shared problems, including weapons proliferation, terrorism, narcotics, and contagious diseases. The worldwide economic and political consequences of this natural disaster could be even more severe unless we commit ourselves to advancing a strong recovery in the region.

This resolution explains the gravity of the situation, offers condolences to the victims and their loved ones, and sets the stage for Congress to make additional appropriations that will aid in the recovery. Congress must work with the President for a generous supplemental appropriation that goes well beyond the amounts of money already committed.

A summit pledging conference is scheduled to occur in Jakarta, Indonesia on Thursday. The United States should be there in a leadership position. This will be an important opportunity to work with the world community in responding to this tragedy. American humanitarian, diplomatic, and national security interests will be deeply affected by the outcome of this conference.

My heart goes out to the victims of this tragedy. While financial and in-kind assistance cannot replace the huge loss of life that countries in the region have suffered, the United States' contribution will, at least, help the survivors rebuild their lives.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I express my sincere sympathy for the millions of people affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Africa on December 26. The scale of this disaster is overwhelming, and the human losses are horrifying. Families have been shattered and whole communities lost, and because so many international tourists were in the region, virtually every part of the world—including the United States—is represented in the list of casualties.

I know the sorrow that I feel as I review the reports of devastating losses is shared by the people of Wisconsin and by all Americans. I know that we also share a sense of resolve—resolve to provide whatever assistance we can to the survivors and the affected communities, and resolve to be steadfast partners in the long-term reconstruction efforts that must follow the relief operations.

I vividly recall the powerful voices that rose up from all corners of the globe in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. I remember how they conveyed a sense of solidarity and support that gave our country comfort and affirmed the bonds that unite all of humanity, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or religion. Now, countless American voices are also sounding loudly and clearly in that same spirit.

I am grateful for the efforts of so many around the world to come to the aid of those in need, including U.S. military personnel who are working day and night to help. Businesses and individuals from around Wisconsin have contacted my office, looking for ways that they can help. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the resolution before the Senate that expresses our sympathy and pledges our support to the victims of this catastrophe, and I pledge to continue working with my colleagues to ensure that our words continue to be matched by our actions.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today the Senate expresses its condolences over the recent tsunami disaster. Like most Americans, I watched in horror over the holidays as a tsunami battered thousands of miles of coastline across South Asia and Africa. The damage left in the wake of this disaster is almost overwhelming, and I feel a sense of personal and professional obligation to do whatever can be done to help those in need. Though the grim reports have varied in the days following this disaster, it is becoming clear that nearly 150,000 people have already lost their lives, and hundreds of thousands of others are in grave jeopardy because of the damage inflicted by the tsunami. Still more families are

searching for loved ones, hoping for any news regarding their family members' whereabouts.

In trying to guide a humanitarian effort through the aftermath of this tragedy, the United States and the larger international community must help these countries face longer term obstacles of disease, the destruction of basic infrastructure, complete damage to coastal economies and other fundamental hardship. America has itself been the victim of great tragedies such as this, and indeed it appears that thousands of Americans living or traveling in South Asia and Africa have themselves been affected by this horrible natural disaster.

My heart goes out to all these victims of the tsunami. It is time for the world, particularly those nations that are most fortunate such as the United States, to move rapidly with a relief and recovery effort that is worthy of the size of this tragedy. I am encouraged that our Government, in cooperation with private sector charities and the business community, has now begun to focus on what can be done to help the affected countries. This tragedy provides America with an opportunity to show that we can lead the world, not just when it is our military that is needed, but when we can offer our generosity and expertise for a massive humanitarian effort. So many nations affected by this tragedy are looking to America for help and we have an opportunity to provide the world our leadership. In addition to it being the right thing to do, it is clearly in America's national interest to be a leader in helping these countries to recover.

In this spirit, I wholeheartedly support the administration's pledge of \$350 million to the relief effort. I also commend the involvement of former Presidents Clinton and Bush in helping to organize a private relief effort. I would also like to commend the work being done by our private sector, particularly by nongovernmental organizations and the business community, to help those in need. This charitable work is quintessentially American, and these efforts are something for which we can all be proud.

I also want to share with my colleagues that we should be aware that the generosity of the American people in response to this disaster extends to the knowledge we have to share with the world regarding the monitoring and reporting of oceanic and climatic events.

There is important research and monitoring already being done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on tsunami events, work that involves the University of Washington in my State. Scientists are learning how better to monitor patterns or impending developments in our oceans so we can be prepared for future possible events. We do not always focus on the good work being done by NOAA, until something tragic like this tsunami occurs. Congress has

an obligation to people on our coasts to fund NOAA and see that it can do its job well, and we should work to fulfill that obligation.

In the United States, NOAA's National Weather Service operates two tsunami warning centers, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii and the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska. In the event of a tsunami, the Centers will issue local tsunami advisories to the Emergency Managers Office of each potentially affected State. The decision to evacuate a coastal area rests with each responsible EM. The Seattle Post Intelligencer reported that the current U.S. network consists of six deep-sea sensors in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, and near the equator off the coast of Peru. In addition to the six tsunami buoys, the warning system takes advantage of existing tidal monitoring stations and USGS seismic monitoring and reporting capabilities. The NOAA official in charge of the system described the current configuration as the "bare minimum" needed for adequate warning. There are plans to expand the system to 20 tsunami buoys in the next five years, 10 of which will be placed in the Aleutian Islands. NOAA is estimating one-time costs of \$8.7 million and recurring costs of \$8.5 million to enhance the current system.

NOAA also runs a Tsunami Research Program out of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle. The objective of the Tsunami Research Program is to improve warning guidance, hazard assessment, and implementation planning. The Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean, a partnership between NOAA and UW, has also worked with the Tsunami Research Program on hazard assessment modeling.

PMEL has also developed instruments it has named tsunameters. With six deployed in the middle of the Pacific since 2001 in waters 2.5 to 4 miles deep, the tsunameters can detect the perturbations in water pressure as a tsunami passes above. When it detects something, it sends a signal by sound waves to a buoy on the surface. The signal is relayed to a satellite and then back to Earth to tsunami warning centers in Hawaii and Alaska, a process that takes only 2 minutes.

No significant tsunamis have yet occurred in the Pacific for the tsunameters to detect, but they have prevented a false alarm. In November 2003, a magnitude 7.8 undersea earthquake occurred near the Aleutian Islands, spurring officials to issue a tsunami warning. When the wave passed over a tsunameter, they saw it was small and canceled the warning.

In conclusion, I again express my condolences and those of Washingtonians to those who have lost family members in this tragedy. The Senate should do all it can to help all those who face a long and difficult cleanup.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to express my profound condolences for

the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Africa. I commend our two leaders for writing S. Res. 4, passed unanimously by the Senate earlier this afternoon. It is right and fitting that on our first day of business in this Congress the Senate has united to send a message of hope and leadership to the victims of this horrible disaster.

We were all mortified to learn of the devastation caused by this disaster as we awoke after a day of Christmas celebrations. The news from this disaster has been arriving so fast and furious that it is hard to put the kinds of numbers we are talking about in perspective. We know there are more than 150,000 people dead—that is 150,000 personal tragedies. And there are hundreds of thousands of others who are homeless and whose lives have been turned upside down by this tragedy. We said clearly to their families and loved ones in our resolution today that we are here to help them recover and rebuild.

The generosity and compassion of America will be felt in Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Thailand. In fact, our troops and humanitarian assistance professionals are already bringing hope to those countries in the form of water, food and comfort. We thank our troops for their hard work and for showing the world the best of America, as they always do.

I am also mindful this afternoon that this terrible disaster has wreaked havoc in our own country and in my own state of Colorado. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims and their families.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR IGNATIUS McDERMOTT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I rise to pay tribute

to the life of a great friend, a great man who passed away on December 31. His name was Monsignor Ignatius McDermott and he was known as Father Mac, from the city of Chicago. He was a model of compassion, commitment, and service.

On December 31, when he left this Earth, he was 95 years old. He made his name in Chicago because of his dedication to some of the poorest people who lived in that city. When he was a young priest, he had many options. He worked in parishes and had different assignments, but he knew there was a special calling in his life, a calling that very few priests, very few people would even consider. Monsignor McDermott, Father Mac, dedicated his life to walking Chicago's meanest streets, skid row, and becoming the priest, the chaplain, of thousands of people on those streets addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Ironically, he died on the 29th anniversary of the day that he cofounded Chicago's largest addiction treatment center, Haymarket Center.

He was born in the "Back of the Yards" neighborhood. If you read Upton Sinclair's book "The Jungle," you know what the stockyards meant to the city of Chicago. That is where the immigrant families headed. That is where they could find a job that required hard work and a strong back and barely make a living. That is where he grew up.

He was known in his youth as just the kid brother of the famous alderman, Jim McDermott. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1936. He was assigned to what is now known in Chicago as Maryville Academy, a home for neglected and abandoned orphaned children. It was there that he saw for the first time in his ministry how alcoholism affected families.

He disagreed with the common sentiment in Chicago and across the country that alcoholism was just a character flaw: If you had a little better character, you might overcome that problem. He understood it was a disease and it needed to be treated. So Father McDermott brought Alcoholics Anonymous, which in the late forties was really a creation for the middle class of America, to the people of skid row in Chicago, people whose alcoholism had left them in the worst possible plight.

In 1963, he founded the Central States Institute of Addiction because he recognized the need for qualified treatment counselors and educators. It was there that Illinois's first program for offenders convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol was created.

In the 1970s, he led the charge in our State to decriminalize public drunkenness. On New Year's Eve 1975, along with Dr. James West, who would go on to direct the Betty Ford Center in California, Father McDermott founded Haymarket Center.

I have had the privilege in public life to meet some amazing people, and I count Monsignor McDermott—Father Mac—as one of those people.

When I first came to the Senate, the Irish-American clubs of Chicago came to me and suggested we should have a postage stamp that would acknowledge the contribution of Irish immigrants to America. I was surprised it had never happened. So the first phone call I made in the Senate was to my colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY. If there is anything dealing with Irish Americans, you better get TED KENNEDY on board. He thought it was a great idea. So we worked together, and we were successful.

The Postal Commission decided to commission a commemorative stamp commemorating the immigration of the Irish to Chicago. TED and I tried to decide which one of us would announce the stamp. By seniority, he was able to announce the first-day issue in Boston, the same day I would unveil the stamp in Chicago.

I thought to myself: Who will I invite from this city of so many great Irish Americans to come and represent those of that ethnic origin at the unveiling of the stamp? I looked around at some of the obvious: Father John Smith of Maryville, the institution I mentioned earlier, who did so much to help so many young children; Sister Rosemary of Misericordia Center, just an amazing, wonderful, and warm, touching center for children who were born with mental affliction and mental illness. I thought of Father Jim Close, who runs Mercy Home for boys and girls in Chicago. I thought what a great contribution he made. I thought of my pastor from my parish, Father Jack Wall from old Saint Pat's, a downtown parish that serves so many people in that community. But I also thought of Father Mac.

I brought them all together. They were up there with me on that stage when we unveiled the stamp. When I got up, I said: If you want to know the contribution of the Irish people to the city of Chicago, look at these five people and the dedication of their lives and what they have done to help so many people. Had the Irish been pushed away and shunned from coming to America, would someone else have stepped into their roles?

I thought about that again when Father Mac passed away. He took an assignment most priests would not even consider: going to those mean streets, those poor areas of Chicago. That was his ministry. How many times would each one of us, as we are walking along with our family on the street, see someone who is obviously intoxicated or sick with addiction and maybe pick up our pace and walk a little faster? For Father Mac, that is exactly when he would slow down and stop to try to determine what he could do.

He dedicated his life to these people. There were so many amazing stories that came from it, lives that were saved, people who were given a chance to succeed. When he opened the Haymarket Center—it is right behind Greek Town in Chicago, if you happen

to know the city a little bit. It used to be a part of the city that mainly was warehouses. Now it is becoming pretty gentrified with a lot of lofts and condominiums, with a lot of people moving in, a lot of trendy restaurants, but when it was one of the poorest parts of Chicago, Father Mac established Haymarket Center because that is where he could find the people who needed his help.

I have been there several times. He had a little chapel in Haymarket where he would hold mass on Sundays, and many people came to join him at that little service. As they walked around Haymarket Center, they understood that even though those were some of the poorest people in some of the worst places in our city, Father Mac always treated them as his brothers and sisters. He went out of his way to give them the dignity and attention they deserved.

Those of us who were privileged to have known Father Mac will remember his wonderful ability to always see good in people and to convince those same people not to give up on themselves. He was a visionary, he was a leader, and he was a friend. But he was more. When I think back on my life, on those I have met who made a profound impression on me and who if they did not reach the level of sainthood were knocking at the door, Father Mac was one of those people.

I extend my deepest condolences to all of those who join me in treasuring the fond memories of Monsignor Ignatius McDermott. We start the new year with a heavy heart but with a renewed commitment that each of us in some small way will try to continue the ministry of this wonderful man.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ASBESTOS LEGISLATION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to discuss briefly the status of efforts to have asbestos tort reform legislation, a matter which has been before the Congress of the United States for more than two decades.

I had my first contact with the issue back in 1984 when then-Senator Gary Hart of Colorado brought in a constituent to talk about asbestos. It has been an issue which we have labored with long and hard, and in the last Congress, Senator HATCH, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, advanced legislation with the concept of a trust and a schedule of payments to avoid the costs and risks of litigation and to

treat asbestos injuries very much like workers' compensation.

A bill was passed out of the Judiciary Committee last July, pretty much on a party-line vote, as the distinguished Presiding Officer, Senator CORNYN of Texas, knows because he was and is on the Judiciary Committee and did a prodigious amount of work on this issue. The bill was passed out with a number of problems. I voted for it to move it along. I then enlisted the assistance of the former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Edward R. Becker, who was in senior status. Judge Becker convened a large group of so-called stakeholders in his chamber. For two full days in August, he met in his chambers with representatives of the manufacturers, representatives of the AFL-CIO, representatives of the insurance industry, the reinsurance industry, and trial lawyers to start to work through a large number of problems which appeared to be intractable. We have worked through many of those problems, but some still remain.

There had been some talk about a draft bill being offered, but it is not appropriate to offer legislation until later this month under the procedures established by the majority leader, and the proposed draft legislation is not quite ready, although a great deal of work has been done on it.

There have been major issues raised as to what the total amount of the trust fund should be. There have been issues raised as to how much money should be in the startup fund; how long the trust fund ought to function before giving the claimants the right to revert to the judicial system because the legislation necessarily takes away their right to jury trial in consideration of a certain amount of money to be paid under the trust fund; and the problems that many victims are having where they are unable to collect from anyone—people with mesothelioma, a deadly disease, with cancer, with many ailments from the exposure to asbestos.

This would be the offset to giving up the right to a jury trial.

We have adopted an approach of reverting back to the right to jury trial if the elaborate system does not work. I think the system is realistically calculated to be successful.

Following the meetings in Judge Becker's chambers last August, there have been some 32 sessions held in my conference room, presided over by Judge Becker with myself in attendance for most of those meetings.

To repeat, a lot of progress has been made. It is my hope to be able to circulate a draft bill as a vehicle for discussion. I call it a discussion draft bill. My hope is that it could be circulated before the end of the week, but it is not possible to make any firm commitments because candidly every time we come upon a sequence of negotiations, other problems arise. If there is any way to reconcile them and to have a consensus before going into print, we are trying to do that.

It had been my hope last year, as we worked through the process, to have a bill by consensus. Senator FRIST and the then-Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, did a great deal of work and exchanged letters. At one point we thought we were on the verge of a consensus, but it did not work out.

In order to pass a bill, as we all know, in the last stages of a legislative session, it has to be by consensus because any single Senator can hold up a bill in its final stages. That consensus was not possible, and although we were very close on many issues, there are some issues where there is still some difference of opinion. The differences have been narrowed, and we have come a long way.

It is my hope to circulate a draft discussion bill, and there likely will still be some blanks. We will fill in as many of the blanks as we can, and then Judge Becker and I will be available to meet with the stakeholders in my conference room on Monday to talk about the areas where there has been agreement, to talk about the specifics on a draft discussion bill, and to talk about the areas where there are still differences as to how we might bridge that gap.

I have worked with Senator LEAHY. I commend him for his work with Chairman HATCH on this matter. We have talked about having a hearing next Tuesday on January 11. I am not unaware of the fact that it is not a convenient time, but Senator LEAHY will be present and I think there will be some other Senators present. We have given several weeks notice. We are aware it is a difficult time, but there are many hearings held in the Senate with just a few Senators, the chairman, and the ranking member present. I think it is important to move ahead.

At that time, it is the expectation that we will hear testimony from Judge Becker to lay out the draft discussion bill and then to hear testimony from the stakeholders identifying the parts of the bill which they choose to comment about where there are agreements or where there are disagreements. We know from experience that the early part of a legislative session is necessarily slow, but that early on in February, certainly in March, sometimes by mid-February, we begin to move ahead and the calendar begins to be crowded.

There are many items which the President has identified as legislative priorities. We will have confirmation hearings starting with White House Counsel Gonzales on Thursday and there will be other confirmation hearings. So it is my hope to be able to present a bill through markup at a very early date. Whether that can be done in late January or early February, frankly, remains to be seen.

When we marked up this bill the last Thursday of July of 2003, it was a very long markup. It lasted more than 12 hours, as the distinguished Presiding Officer will recollect. In a sense, we

had the longest markup in the history of the Senate with the sessions in Judge Becker's chambers and the 32 sessions in my conference room. I thought it would be useful to briefly describe where we have been and in a sense where we are going so our colleagues will know what the status is as fully as it can be described without actually circulating a draft discussion of the bill, which will be done at the earliest possible time.

I thank the Chair. I commend him for his lonely vigil. This was a thriving Chamber three hours ago with standing room only and suddenly the business of the Senate is not quite so pressing with only the Presiding Officer and this Senator present. So in the absence of any other Senator, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for as much time as I consume.

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

DELIVERING SOLUTIONS TO THE NATION'S PROBLEMS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to expand on what I discussed at the outset of this session, now about 3 hours ago. I would like to focus not just on what we must do as individual Senators, but also on what this Senate can do and can achieve together, as a body. With the President and the House as partners, we can deliver meaningful solutions to the real problems that confront our Nation. We can secure freedom and safety and a healthier future for generations of Americans to come.

We made much progress toward these goals in the last Congress and we did so in a very narrowly divided Senate. Even with the rough and tumble of election year politics, we found ways to work together for the common good of our country. We can, we must, and I believe we will achieve at least the same and hopefully even greater success in the Senate.

No doubt it will be a challenge. The makeup of this Senate is unique. The margins between the majority and the minority may be wider, but the margins at the ends of the ideological spectrum are wider still.

We also have our own prerogatives as equals, as individual Senators, as members of our respective caucuses. And we have principles, principles to which I hope each and every one of us will hold tight during the next 2 years and throughout our careers in public service. But we also have an obligation to

this body and to the people and to the Nation we serve to conduct that business with civility and with foresight and a sharp focus on those meaningful solutions. The agenda before us is simply too ambitious, too urgent, and too important to the future of our country and the world to do otherwise. Every Member of this body can take pride in the accomplishments of the last Congress, the 108th Congress. We took on big issues. We took on huge challenges. And our actions translated into solutions. Together we proudly moved America forward.

For years Congress talked about providing seniors with relief from the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs through Medicare. Finally, in 2003, Congress took action and passed the first substantial improvement to Medicare since the program was created 40 years ago. Today, more than 6 million seniors have prescription drug discount cards that are saving them 10 percent to 25 percent on their medicines; tens of thousands more are signing up every week; and within 12 months every senior on Medicare will have affordable access to a comprehensive prescription drug benefit. Challenge; action; solutions.

Before President Bush took office, our economy was tilting toward recession. Then the Internet bubble burst, corporate scandals rattled investor confidence, and terrorist attacks devastated our economy. We took action. We cut taxes for every American who pays taxes and we reduced taxes on businesses, helping them invest and expand and be more competitive in the global economy. Since August 2003, our businesses have created over 2.4 million jobs, we reduced the unemployment rate from a peak of 6.3 percent last June to 5.4 percent today, and aftertax income is up by more than 10 percent since 2000. Challenge; action; solutions.

On September 11, 2001, the United States was ruthlessly and brutally attacked by terrorists. More than 3,000 innocent men, women, and children were murdered. America and indeed the world changed forever. I am proud of the support this body has given to our Commander in Chief and the brave men and women who risk their lives every day to defend our country. We provided \$87 billion to help our military buy equipment and support operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. To date, our forces have killed or captured three quarters of al Qaida's leadership. They have toppled two terrorist regimes, and in the process they have liberated 50 million people and put them on the path to self-government.

The Senate also adopted the most sweeping overhaul of our intelligence system since the creation of the CIA itself. This will bolster and better organize our intelligence efforts to win the war on terror and face those new security threats of the 21st century. Again: Challenge; action; solutions.

These are just several of the achievements of the last Congress. But the

pattern that has been set is clear. America faced urgent challenges. We acted with solutions, and with the heart and drive and genius of our people we moved America forward.

Earlier today we witnessed 34 Members take that oath of office of a U.S. Senator. It is a wonderful tradition that dates back to that first Congress in 1789. The oath at that time was a simple 14-word phrase:

I do solemnly affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States.

Those same 14 words form the vital core of today's oath, the oath that 34 Senators took now 3 hours ago. They bind us and all who have served in this body before us, many of whom joined us today, to a common, a timeless, and a paramount cause.

Our first responsibility above all else is to do our constitutional duty. Nothing should come before it. Nothing should stand between it—not party, not ideology, and certainly not politics.

Yet, in the last Congress I believe the Senate failed to perform an essential constitutional duty. It failed to offer advice and consent to the President by filibustering ten judicial nominees and threatening to filibuster another six. These filibusters were unprecedented. Never in the history of the Senate has a minority filibustered a judicial nominee who had clear majority support. This was an abrupt and an unfortunate break in more than 200 years of Senate tradition, of Senate history. This tradition must be restored, not merely because we honor the traditions of the Senate, but because this tradition reflects the proper role for this body, the Senate, as designed by our Framers in the constitutional arrangement.

Next month we will have the opportunity to restore Senate tradition. I will bring one of the President's very capable, qualified, and experienced judicial nominees to the floor. We can debate that nomination. We can vote to support it or to oppose it. And we must offer the President advice and consent by giving this and future judicial nominees who are brought to the floor up-or-down votes.

Some, I know, have suggested that the filibusters of the last Congress are reason enough to offer a procedural change today, right here and right now, but at this moment I do not choose that path.

Democratic colleagues have new leadership. And in the spirit of bipartisanship, I want to extend my hand across the aisle.

I have a sincere hope that we can move forward past difficulties—beyond the past difficulties we saw in the last Congress—and look forward to a future of cooperation.

I seek cooperation, not confrontation. Cooperation does not require support for the nominees. Cooperation simply means voting judicial nominees brought to the floor up or down.

So let me say this: If my Democratic colleagues exercise self-restraint and do not filibuster judicial nominees,

Senate traditions will be restored. It will then be unnecessary to change Senate procedures. Self-restraint on the use of the filibuster for nominations—the very same self-restraint that Senate minorities exercised for more than two centuries—will alleviate the need for any action. But if my Democratic colleagues continue to filibuster judicial nominees, the Senate will face this choice: Fail to do its constitutional duty or reform itself and restore its traditions, and do what the Framers intended.

Right now, we cannot be certain judicial filibusters will cease. So I reserve the right to propose changes to Senate rule XXII, and do not acquiesce to carrying over all the rules from the last Congress.

As a public servant who has twice taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution, I cannot stand idly by, nor should any of us, if the Senate fails to do its constitutional duty. We, as Senators, have our constitutional duty to offer the President advice and consent.

Although our constitutional duties are paramount, we also have a legislative responsibility to the people we serve and to the Nation. This is our opportunity to take on the challenges that each of us sought public office to pursue. After all, we are here not just to occupy our offices but to lead, to be bold, to take action, and to get things done.

First, there is work left undone from the last Congress, and we need to act on it.

America is long overdue for an energy policy. We need a plan in place to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bolster conservation efforts. Last Congress, the Senate passed an energy bill that would have done just that. I am hopeful we will be able to do the same this year and work with House leaders and the President to finish the job.

We also need to eliminate frivolous lawsuits by reforming asbestos liability, medical liability, and our class action system. Frivolous lawsuits cost our economy more than \$250 billion per year. That is more than 2 percent of our gross domestic product—the equivalent of over \$800 on every American. To keep our economy growing and competitive, we need to act now.

I will bring class action reform to the floor early next month. I am confident we will pass this bill and take a big first step to restoring sanity and fairness to our legal system.

Second, in the last Congress, we led on the most urgent issues facing America. And we still need to keep our focus on issues such as protecting our homeland from biological threats. But we must also lead today on tomorrow's challenges. We need to look to the horizon and ask ourselves: What will be the cost in the future if we fail to act now?

The President has put Social Security reform among his top priorities for

his second term. He has laid out wise and essential principles: protecting the benefits of today's seniors, not raising payroll taxes, and giving younger Americans the opportunity to save, own, and invest a portion of their own Social Security dollars. But in the end, the details on how to accomplish Social Security reform will fall to Congress. This will require a tremendous amount of work, especially from our skilled committee chairmen. It will also require us to work together across the aisle—both parties in both Houses. If we do so, I believe we will be able to achieve the goal of putting a bill that addresses the short-term and long-term gaps in Social Security on the President's desk.

As we consider Social Security reform, we cannot turn a blind eye to other entitlements. Gathering on the horizon is a Medicare perfect storm: skyrocketing health care costs that are affecting every family and an increasing number of seniors—a doubling in the number of seniors—over the next 30 years, and fewer and fewer workers paying into the program.

Keeping the promise of Medicare to seniors will place an untenable burden on younger Americans and their children and their grandchildren. In fact, the total unfunded liability in the Medicare Program far exceeds Social Security's unfunded liability. We have a moral responsibility to begin to have a conversation about the long-term challenges facing Medicare.

In the short term, we can work to reduce health care costs in general. The fact is, our health care system—it is not even really a system. Our health care sector is fantastically inefficient. We can make it much more productive.

Just think about it for a minute. We can access our bank accounts from nearly anywhere in the world with our ATM cards, but we can't transfer our CAT scan results digitally from one hospital to another hospital across the street for a second opinion. We can pay bills on line, we can order groceries on line, and we can even apply for a mortgage on line—all in a matter of minutes. But if we happen to be in a car accident, if we are knocked unconscious with our lives at stake, paramedics and emergency room doctors cannot quickly check for blood type or allergies to our medicines.

It doesn't make sense. We can fix it by encouraging the use of information technology. By reforming our broken medical liability system, by expanding portable tax-free accounts, among other things, we can begin to hold that line on health care costs and improve our system.

I am pleased the President is firmly committed to working with Congress to make health care more affordable and accessible.

He is also committed, as I am, to protecting the values that serve as the foundation of a healthy society: Marriage, family, and a culture of life that protects human dignity at every stage of development.

Finally, we need to elevate global issues of moral consequence.

This is becoming increasingly apparent in the past week. During the last 9 days, we have all been deeply saddened by the unfolding tragedy in Southern Asia. Estimates now put the death toll at more than 150,000, more than a third of which are children. And the statistics don't capture the sorrow, the sadness, that sense of loss, the psychological impact that will leave long-standing scars.

When we resume our business later this month and the President requests our assistance, we will set aside what we are working on to provide funding quickly and cleanly.

Later tonight I will be leaving with several of our colleagues to travel to the devastated areas. We will report back about what America can do to aid relief and recovery efforts.

America is the most generous Nation in the world. We will step up with all the resources, all the compassion, all the hope that we can muster in these next few weeks and beyond. We have done so as a nation. We have done so as a people many times before.

Last Congress we stepped up in the fight against global HIV/AIDS. We stepped up with an unprecedented \$15 billion commitment. We will keep that commitment strong. We need to work hard to bring peace, stability, and humanitarian support to war-torn nations such as Sudan.

Americans are a compassionate people. We, as Senators, can help capture that and channel it for the good of the world. It is our responsibility. We will do just that.

In his most recent news conference, President Bush said this about his second-term agenda:

All of these goals require the energy and dedication of members of both political parties. Working in a spirit of bipartisanship, we will build the foundation of a stronger, more prosperous country.

The President is exactly right. The challenges before this Congress are so vital to the future of our country. We must work together to address them. Through our history, America has been served best by leaders who treat each other and their offices with respect and civility and decency.

I think of George Washington who, at the age of just 16, copied out by hand a list of 110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation. This act shaped the early character of Washington and in turn the indelible character of our Nation.

In recent history, Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill come to mind. Although they stood on opposite sides of the ideological spectrum, they enjoyed a wonderful relationship, a fruitful friendship. On the Speaker's 70th birthday, President Reagan invited him to the White House for a celebratory lunch. At the end of the meal, the President raised a glass of champagne and toasted the Speaker:

Tip, if I had a ticket to heaven and you didn't have one, too, I'd sell mine and go to hell with you.

Many have enjoyed friendships just like that in the Senate. I know I do, and so do many of our spouses. The Senate, as I have often said and referred to in my remarks earlier today, is a family. The sense of family does not come across on the television screen and certainly doesn't come across in the newspapers. What the American people too often see and what I don't believe they like is an extreme partisanship, a partisan bickering and a lack of cooperation. Some of that is just the nature of the news. Conflict, as we all know, sells advertising and catches people's attention, but it is also the nature of Washington today with all of the competing special interests.

There is still something else at work. Somehow, we have become more defined by the forces that divide us than the common cause that unites us. The civility that once was the hallmark of this body has eroded over time. I recognize, we all recognize, it will take time to regain it. But we must begin. We must begin now and we will begin.

I applaud the orientation for new Members that Senators CARPER and ALEXANDER and others helped organize just this November. Our nine newly elected Senators worked with veterans of this body to learn, as my colleague from Tennessee said, what it takes for the Senate to function as an institution and fulfill its constitutional role. We need more efforts just like this, such as in Senate policy forums, bipartisan leadership meetings, all of which would be a good start.

These are issues I have discussed with the Democratic leader. I ask our colleagues to come to Senator REID and me with other suggestions they may have over the next several weeks. Leaders on both sides of the aisle need to set an example, but the whole body needs to share in this effort. We all need to commit to restoring civility in the Senate. If we do, with time, I believe, the Senate again can become what it was in the so-called golden age, what the great statesman and Senator, Daniel Webster, called in his last major address:

... A body not yet moved from its propriety, not lost to a just sense of its own dignity and own responsibilities, and a body to which the country looks, with confidence, for wise, moderate, patriotic and healing counsels.

I close by expressing a concept that is by no means new but is essential to our deliberations and, in the end, to the future for America. It is the concept that this body, the Senate, act as one.

During my decade of service in this body, I have seen extraordinary acts of courage. I have seen men and women endure overwhelming currents of political pressure. Sometimes they have done this standing alone and independent; sometimes they have crossed the aisle and cast a deciding vote with the opposing party. Every time, however, it has been for one simple reason:

to do what their hearts told them was right for the people they represent and for the Nation.

Where leaders perform such acts of courage, they subjugate their own political interests to the higher purpose of the whole. Although they may pay a political price, they are rewarded with honor and with pride and with respect.

In the end, those rewards are priceless. Those rewards last—not only in the hearts of public servants but in the hearts of the people they represent.

The Senate's longest serving majority leader, the late Mike Mansfield, said of this body:

In the end, it is not the Senators as individuals who are a fundamental importance. In the end, it is the institution of this Senate. It is the Senate itself as one of the foundations of the Constitution. It is the Senate as one of the rocks of the Republic.

Let us do the duty of U.S. Senators, our constitutional duty and our duty to our people and our Nation. Let us do so with respect and civility and decency for this body and for each other. As we do, let us secure for every American a freer, safer, and healthier future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The Senator from Oregon.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before he leaves the Chamber, I commend the majority leader for his interest in health care, in particular. I have always thought it is far away the most important issue at home. I have come to the Senate to talk about some of the opportunities in this session to work in a bipartisan way on these critical issues. In fact, I was going to mention that the Senator and I have pursued legislation to tackle the problem of child obesity. I appreciate the majority leader's interest in health care and look forward to working with him in this session.

Mr. President, colleagues, I have believed health care is the most important issue at home since my days as director of the Oregon Gray Panthers. I have thought health care was the most important issue because, in a sense, if our folks do not have their health, it is not possible to work, to learn, to raise children, or do much of anything the American people value.

For me, this is the big priority at home. When we look at what is happening today with medical costs gobbling up everything in sight, the demographic revolution with so many more older people, the tremendous lifesaving technologies we have today which, of course, carry a big price tag, all of these forces come together to present an issue that just cannot be ducked any longer. To put it in perspective, David Walker, the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office, put it pretty well, saying that the Medicare problem is about seven times greater than the Social Security problem and it has gotten much worse. It is

much bigger. It is more immediate. It is going to be much more difficult to effectively address.

That is the view of the Comptroller General. He is talking about Medicare. But in my view, the concerns that David Walker talks about with respect to Medicare extend to the health care system as a whole.

This afternoon for a few minutes I will chart a course as it relates to health care: first, a number of steps that could be taken right now that would significantly help the American people as we deal with this health care challenge. Then I will discuss, for the longer term, another bipartisan effort I have had a chance to team up with Senator HATCH on that will be implemented over the next few weeks.

But if I might, I would like to start with Medicare. I think Senator FRIST is right; these Medicare costs are soaring. For the prescription drug legislation alone, it is clear now the price tag will be in the vicinity of \$100 billion more than Congress originally calculated. That is the current estimate. Many have said it will be much greater. I think it is critically important that steps be taken to contain costs, particularly as relates to this fast-growing area that we will be faced with, that is prescription drugs.

We all hear about it from our constituents. Every time we are home, folks tell us about how skyrocketing prescription drug costs are such a hardship on them. They want to know what Congress is going to do to respond to it.

One of the things I think has been so exacerbating about this issue of cost containment as it relates to prescription drugs is that the Medicare program is not even employing the kind of cost containment tools you see in the private sector. If you are talking, for example, about a big timber company, the Presiding Officer (the Senator from Idaho) and I know big timber firms and other natural resources firms use their bargaining power in order to try to hold down the cost of medicine and other essentials. The Medicare program is not doing that. The Medicare program is not using the kind of bargaining power that exists in the private sector today.

In fact, if you are an older person, and you go off and purchase your medicine, either now or even in the future, under many of the plans that will be offered under the new program, you have no bargaining power, and in effect you are subsidizing those big private-sector buyers, whether they are steel firms, timber firms, auto companies, or various other kinds of concerns. I do not think that is right.

(Mr. TALENT assumed the chair.)

Mr. WYDEN. I am very pleased I have had a chance over the last few years to team up with Senator SNOWE of Maine on a bipartisan effort to contain those prescription drug costs, using essentially the model of more bargaining power the way private sector firms have.

Part of the Medicare prescription drug bill that I think is very unfortunate is a statutory ban on Medicare using its bargaining power to hold down the cost of medicine the way big private-sector buyers would use their bargaining power. So Senator SNOWE and I would like to change that. We would like to lift that bargaining power restriction so Medicare would be in a position to use marketplace forces to hold down the cost of prescription drugs.

A few weeks ago, we got a big boost for our bipartisan legislation when the outgoing Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary Tommy Thompson, said he wished he had had the power the bipartisan Snowe-Wyden legislation would provide. Secretary Thompson gave a press conference, I believe on the day he announced his resignation, and specifically said he wished he had had the tools that the bipartisan legislation the Senator from Maine and I have authored would provide at the time of his service because he could have made those scarce Medicare dollars stretch further.

So I think Secretary Thompson gave a pretty ringing bipartisan endorsement for the legislation Senator SNOWE and I will be reintroducing very shortly. It seems to me to make sure that seniors get the best value in the marketplace, that taxpayers get their money's worth under the Medicare program, a program that is, of course, soaring in costs, we ought to make sure we use the kinds of tools the private sector uses.

In the bipartisan legislation I have written with Senator SNOWE—it is called the MEND bill, the Medicare Enhancement for Needed Drugs legislation—we would have a chance, in my view, to significantly rein in these costs using the power of the marketplace. But I bring this up first by way of saying this is just the beginning of what I think we could do in this session of Congress.

I want to move now to the issue of catastrophic illness. The Senator from Missouri and I represent a lot of small businesses. We enjoyed our service on the Small Business Committee when we were in the House. I think we and our colleagues all understand if you have a small business, say a hardware store with six people, and one or two of them get particularly sick, that essentially blows the whole health care system for that small hardware store or furniture shop or what have you. In effect, if one or two of the people get sick at the small business, the premiums go through the roof for everybody, and they essentially can go so high that it is not possible for the firm to offer coverage at all.

I was struck in the campaign by Senator KERRY's proposal because I thought it was a very innovative way to help those small businesses rein in their costs. In effect, he was going to use the concept of reinsurance for very large bills that would be faced by a

small business. If you have the Government picking up the very large bills for the one or two people at the hardware store in Missouri who have these illnesses, that can stabilize the rate system for everybody.

I thought the Kerry proposal was a good idea. I come to the floor to bring it up because I think if you compare the Kerry proposal to some of the ideas offered by the distinguished majority leader, Senator FRIST, who was just on the floor, his Healthy Mae proposal, while different than the Kerry proposal, certainly in a number of respects both of them are looking at the same core concept, which is to use this idea of reinsurance to pick up the very large bills that would be faced by some of our small businesses.

I think when you look at the Kerry proposal, when you look at the Frist proposal, there is a lot of common ground there to tackle a health care issue of enormous concern to millions of families. All across this country we have citizens who face the prospect of going to bed at night knowing that if the medical bills soar through the roof, they could lose everything. They could lose their home, the capacity to educate their kids. They could lose virtually everything.

So I think it is important we enact a catastrophic illness program. This idea, by the way, has percolated around for decades. Democratic Presidents have talked about it. Republican Presidents have talked about it. Senator KERRY has authored an innovative proposal. Senator FRIST has come up with ideas that I happen to think are attractive. What we ought to be doing as a body is looking for common ground and the opportunity to work together. As Senator SNOWE and I have done with prescription drug cost containment, I would hope the Senate could come together for a bipartisan catastrophic illness proposal that I think would make a very meaningful dent in these huge expenses we so often face for catastrophic illness.

There are other areas that lend themselves to immediate action as well. In this regard, I particularly commend the distinguished senior Senator from New Mexico, Mr. DOMENICI, and the senior Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, for their outstanding work on mental health. We have been working for some time to try to ensure that there would be mental health parity. Having had my late brother, Jeff, suffer from schizophrenia, I have watched these families jostled around in the health care system for years. I know colleagues of both political parties have as well. There is no reason why we cannot get a bipartisan mental health parity effort, a Domenici-Kennedy bill, working with the other body, get that enacted into law, and get it sent to the President—again, a chance for immediate action.

Finally, I mentioned briefly the issue of childhood obesity. It is obvious that

we now have literally an epidemic of childhood obesity problems occurring early on in life that produce other deadly and costly illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. Senator FRIST and I, working with a group of health advocates for children and independent scientists, have put together a bipartisan bill. I hope we can use that legislation as an opportunity for the Senate to come together.

Our proposal essentially involves a modest Government role, particularly at the outset of the program. Then we use a foundation approach to generate additional funds in the private sector. But at the end of the day, under that legislation, we would have a grassroots juggernaut all across the country focused on our schools, on our families, tackling this issue of childhood obesity. Again, there is no reason why we could not act immediately.

On these kinds of issues—and I have outlined four of them now—I believe Congress is on the cusp of success. Bipartisan efforts are underway. Certainly they need some tweaking and some changes, going through the committee process and the negotiations that are essential to pass legislation, but for all practical purposes, in each of these areas—prescription drug cost containment, a program to deal with catastrophic illness, mental health parity, and fighting childhood obesity—we have legislation that is camera-ready to tackle these very serious health care concerns. We ought to have it.

As the Congress moves on these initiatives, we have to also move to address the health care system of tomorrow. In this regard, Senator HATCH and I have worked for several years on the Health Care That Works for All Americans Act. We got it funded finally last year as part of the appropriations legislation. Now the Government Accountability Office is moving to set in place the first stage of the legislation, which would involve naming the 14 individuals who would be part of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group.

The bipartisan effort Senator HATCH and I have pursued for several years is built on the proposition that it is time for the country and the Congress to try something different and to look at this in a dramatically altered way. This may be of some interest to the Presiding Officer because essentially Harry Truman, in the 81st Congress in 1945, tried on the health care issue what Bill Clinton tried back in 1993 and 1994, and essentially all Presidents have tried in between the 1940s and the 1990s. That was to write legislation in Washington, DC. The American people would find these big Federal health reform bills incomprehensible. The various powerful interest groups would attack each other. And essentially nothing would happen. It was essentially driven in the confines of the beltway in Washington. Literally for more than five decades in the debate about creating a health care system that works for everybody, we would essentially have paralysis.

What Senator HATCH and I have sought to do is to try something different; that is, to essentially start this debate outside the beltway, to try to involve the American people in the most important questions, not the various arcane issues about what every single payroll tax level ought to be, but the big kinds of questions—I will outline a couple of those in a moment—and then use that kind of effort, where citizens could be involved in community meetings, citizens could weigh in online, citizens could participate in a variety of ways, to try to build a consensus for the kinds of reforms that would be needed to create a health care system that works for everyone.

Under our legislation, after the Citizens' Working Group is named by Mr. Walker, the head of the Government Accountability Office, what happens next is the working group essentially would put out for the American people, in simple, straightforward English, information—it could be available online, in booklets, senior centers, other places where folks gather—about where the health care dollar goes today. This year we are going to spend in the vicinity of about \$1.8 trillion on health care. That is what we are spending on health care, yet it is clear that as far as the country is concerned, there really is no sense where that \$1.8 trillion goes now and what the alternatives are for perhaps spending it in a different fashion.

That would be the first task of the Citizens' Working Group, to put out online, in booklets available throughout our communities, information about where the health care dollar goes today and what the various options are for where it might be targeted as an alternative so Americans would have a chance to say: Look, what I am interested in is this kind of approach. Let's say a health savings account or the Associated Health Plan concept, the health plan concept the Senator from Missouri has advocated.

Other citizens might say: I am interested in a single payer kind of system, perhaps in a small community. They think that is the approach that makes sense for them. The point is, until you tell the American people where the health care dollar is going now, it is hard to have a debate with respect to changes that might be necessary so the Congress, on a bipartisan basis, could in effect move forward with legislation that would create a system that works for everybody.

When Senator HATCH and I began this effort, we made a systematic effort to make it as inclusive as we possibly could. The legislation early on won the support of the Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, and the American Association of Retired Persons—certainly a coalition that doesn't agree all the time on health care or other kinds of issues. We have had many groups endorse the effort since. The reason they have is they believe it is critical that something new be tried.

What happens under our legislation, after the Citizens' Working Group has

made it possible for folks to see where the \$1.8 trillion we are spending on health care goes now, is that our citizens will have a chance to participate in open community meetings, online, and other kinds of sessions so that they would have a chance to be heard on the second stage of this very different approach with respect to health care reform.

After our citizens have had a chance to be heard, then the Citizens' Working Group in effect takes that kind of sentiment they have heard from all corners of the Nation and tries to synthesize it into a set of recommendations to the Congress. And under our legislation, within 60 days after the Citizens' Working Group has provided the recommendations to the Congress with respect to what the American people have said, each committee of jurisdiction has to begin hearings on what has come from the Citizens' Working Group in terms of the recommendations of the American people.

I want to close by giving a few examples of the kind of areas where I think we have to have the input of the American people where they have never been asked. For example, the issue of end-of-life care is absolutely essential in terms of a new focus for health care reform. We know that many of our health care dollars are spent in the last few months of an individual's life. We are told by many medical experts—doctors, hospitals, and others—that in many of those instances there is nothing they can do that is medically effective, and there is nothing they can do to enhance the quality of life for the individual. So the question for the country and for courageous political leadership is: What should we do with respect to end-of-life care?

If we are being told by our best doctors and hospitals that they cannot do anything that is medically effective, cannot do anything to promote a better quality of life for individuals, do we want to refocus the health care dollars to make sure, for example, that there are better hospice programs and better end-of-life care programs for individuals facing those kinds of health challenges? I personally think that is where the American people are going to end up. Let's ask them, for the first time, how they want to deal with these very difficult social and ethical issues with respect to American health care. I submit that financial issues with respect to health care are very difficult, no question about that. I think the social and ethical issues, with respect to end-of-life care, where much of the health care dollar gets spent today, are even more challenging, but we have to act. That is the kind of question that would be posed by the Citizens' Working Group. I think other issues are important.

I am particularly interested in the issue of personal responsibility. I think that has been part of what has been driving the debate with respect to health savings accounts and other such

approaches. I have been discussing with my constituents in town hall meetings the idea that if we are to have a system that works for everybody in terms of affordable quality health care, I am prepared to say that an individual should, every time they use a medical service, if they are not destitute, have to make a payment on the spot so as to ensure that there is a clear requirement of personal responsibility. Certainly, that will be controversial, but that is the kind of issue that has to be discussed with respect to health reform.

Finally, I think the question of addressing health care—and particularly Senator HATCH and I have tried to do it in a bipartisan way—means you have to get beyond the blame game. Sometimes when you have a discussion about health care, the topic comes up that Republicans say it is the trial lawyers' fault; nail the trial lawyers and everything is going to be fine. Then you go meet with Democrats and Democrats say, yes, we have to have health reform. Go nail the insurance companies; do that and everything will be fine. I think—and Senator HATCH and I have talked about this—if we are going to have a health care program that works for all Americans, we are going to have to get beyond the blame game. You bet changes need to be made in the insurance sector, because they do skim the cream and take the healthy people, and they do send sick people to Government programs that are sicker than they are. There do need to be changes in those insurance practices. I think we also understand that there are frivolous cases and abuses in the legal sector, and changes would be necessary there if we are to have meaningful reform and a health care program that works for all Americans.

It seems to me this is an issue that we cannot duck because come 2010, 2011, 2012, medical costs will clearly consume just about everything in sight. I submit that the problems we are seeing today in terms of small business premium hikes, folks falling between the cracks—they are not old enough for Medicare or not poor enough for Medicaid; our Medicare providers are understandably frustrated by the reimbursement system—if we keep nibbling at the Medicare health care system, the problems we are seeing today are going to seem like small potatoes compared to what happens in 2010, 2011, and 2012. On New Year's Day in 2008, this demographic influx, in effect, of 7 million-plus retirees we will see over the next few years is going to start to retire. That happens New Year's Day 2008. So the reason I have come to the floor this afternoon is I wanted to outline a number of steps—four, specifically—that I thought Congress could tackle in a bipartisan way that would make a meaningful difference right now: the legislation Senator SNOWE and I have authored in terms of prescription drug cost containment, using marketplace forces to

hold down prescription drug costs; catastrophic illness, and looking particularly at ideas that Senators KERRY and FRIST have talked about; the question of mental health parity; childhood obesity. Again, we can build where there is a bipartisan foundation for congressional action. These are steps we ought to take now. Then we ought to use the next couple of years—as Senator HATCH and I have tried to do in a bipartisan kind of way—to build a health care system that works for all Americans. Our legislation is moving ahead.

The Government Accountability Office is appointing the Citizens' Health Care Working Group right now. The \$3 million appropriated for the legislation—and I am grateful to Senators SPECTER and HARKIN for that particular work—is going to allow us, in our Health Care That Works For All Americans Act, to take a very different approach to break this spiral which dates back to 1945, tried by Harry Truman in the 81st Congress, and continued literally up through the time of President Clinton. Making sure the public has the facts is the first task of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group established in the legislation I have authored with Senator HATCH. Second is to make sure the public gets a chance to weigh in. Finally, to ensure public accountability, the Congress is under a requirement to move forward with hearings after the Citizens' Working Group has reported.

So I think it is appropriate on this first day of the new session to zero in on the health care issue. I have been very closely following the discussions colleagues on both sides of the aisle have made with respect to the tragedy that has taken place overseas. I am very pleased to hear that Majority Leader FRIST is leading a trip to the area and will come back with ideas for bipartisan action on that terrible tragedy. I wanted to talk about what I think is the most pressing issue at home, the health care challenge, and particularly to outline bipartisan steps that could be taken now. I also look forward to working with my colleagues as the legislation I have authored with Senator HATCH is implemented in the weeks ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for up to 45 minutes as in morning business.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first let me say to my friend, Senator WYDEN, he has always been a champion of that cause. A lot of us with different political philosophies rely on his judgment, his experience, his background, and those things he has accomplished in the field of health care. I look forward to working with him in this coming year.

GLOBAL WARMING DEBATE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as I said on the Senate floor on July 28, 2003, much of the debate over global warming is predicated on fear rather than science. I am the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. In addition to its normal expected jurisdictions, the committee also has a lot to do with the Energy bill. We have probably as many provisions in the Energy bill as the Energy Committee does. It is one with which we have great concern.

We recognize we have an energy crisis in America. The House passed a very good Energy bill last year. We should have passed it in the Senate. We did not. I hope we will pass it this time. In the meantime, we need to do what I committed to do when I became chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee 2 years ago. We are going to encourage decisions that are made in Government to be made on sound science.

Many times that is not the case, and such a case is the hoax referred to as "global warming." I called the threat of catastrophic global warming the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people in a statement, to put it mildly, that was not viewed very kindly by the environmental extremists and their elitist organizations.

I also pointed out in a lengthy committee report that those same environmental extremists exploit the issue for fundraising purposes, raking in millions of dollars, even using Federal taxpayers' dollars to finance the campaigns.

For these groups, the issue of catastrophic global warming is not just a favored fundraising tool. In truth, it is more fundamental than that. Put simply, man-induced global warming is an article of religious faith to the radical far left alarmists. Therefore, contending that its central tenets are flawed to them is heresy and of the most despicable kind. Furthermore, scientists who challenge its tenets are attacked sometimes personally for blindly ignoring the so-called scientific consensus. That is not all. Because of their skeptical views, they are contemptuous, dismissed for being "out of the mainstream."

This seems to me highly ironic. Aren't scientists to be nonconforming and question consensus? Nevertheless, it is not hard to read between the lines. "Skeptic" and "out of mainstream" are their thinly veiled code phrases meaning anyone who doubts the alarmists' orthodoxy is, in short, a quack.

I have insisted all along that the climate change debate should be based on fundamental principles and science, not religion. Ultimately, I hope it will be decided by hard facts and data and by serious scientists committed to the principles of sound science instead of censoring skeptical viewpoints, as my alarmist friends favor.

These scientists must be heard, and I will do my part to make sure they are

heard. I am sure the Presiding Officer from Rhode Island is very much concerned with the sound science with which we address this subject.

Since my detailed climate change speech in 2003, so-called skeptics continue to speak out. What they are saying is devastating to the alarmists. They amassed additional scientific evidence convincingly refuting the alarmists' most cherished assumptions and beliefs. New evidence has emerged that further undermines their conclusions, most notably those of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, one of the major pillars of the authorities cited by the extremists and climate alarmists.

I guess what I am saying is we are going to be looking at this new evidence. Just since we have adjourned and have come back in today to swear in our new Members, the scientists are almost entirely on the side that there is no sound science behind the idea that, No. 1, the climate is changing and, No. 2, if it is that it is the result of manmade gases. Evidence has come to light in very interesting times.

Just last month, the 10th Conference of the Parties—that is called the COP-10—to the Framework Convention on Climate Change met in Buenos Aires to discuss Kyoto's implementation and measures to pursue beyond Kyoto.

As most of my colleagues know, Kyoto goes into effect on February 16. I think, with the exception of Russia, an exception I will explain later, the nations that ratified Kyoto and agreed to submit to its mandates are making a very serious mistake.

I went to this meeting, the conference, COP-9, last year in Milan, Italy. It was shocking to see what was actually going on there. I was involved in a mission in west Africa. I saw a person I deal with on a regular basis from a little country in west Africa who was there. It happens that his title in his country's government is Minister of the Environment. I said: What are you doing here? Do you really believe in this Kyoto stuff?

He said: Oh, no, this is the biggest party of the year.

These people are paid for by the United Nations and paid for by this country, in an inordinate amount, percentage, to come up with and have big parties for 3, 4, 5 days in some of the most exotic places in the world just to show support for Kyoto. It is outrageous.

In addition, last month, a popular author, Dr. Michael Crichton, who has questioned the wisdom of those who trumpet a scientific consensus, released a new book called "State of Fear." You all know who Dr. Michael Crichton is. He is a medical doctor as well as a scientist and best-selling author. This is all premised on the global warming debate.

I am happy to report Dr. Crichton's new book reached No. 3 on the New York Times bestseller list. I highly recommend this book to the Presiding Of-

ficer. I will supply him with this book because I think it is imperative people see some of what is going on right now and how public opinion is catching on to this hoax that has permeated our country for so long.

Dr. Crichton, as I said, is a medical doctor and scientist. He very cleverly weaved a very compelling presentation of the scientific facts of climate change—with ample footnotes and documentation throughout, I might add—into a gripping plot. From what I can gather Dr. Crichton's book is designed to bring some sanity to the global warming debate. In the author's message at the end of his book, he refreshingly states what scientists have suspected for years. He says:

We are also in the midst of a natural warming trend that began about 1850—

I do not know who will argue with that.

—as we emerged from a 400 year cold spell known as the Little Ice Age.

Dr. Crichton states that "nobody knows how much of the present warming trend might be a natural phenomenon," and "Nobody knows how much of the present trend might be man-made."

For those who see impending disaster in the coming century, Dr. Crichton writes:

I suspect that people of 2100 will be much richer than we are, consume much more energy, have a smaller global population, and enjoy more wilderness than we have today. I don't think we have to worry about them.

For those who do worry or induce such worries in others, "State of Fear" has a very simple message: Stop worrying and stop spreading fear. Throughout the book, fictional environmental organizations are more focused on raising money, principally by scaring potential contributors with bogus scientific claims and predictions of the global apocalypse, than they are with saving the environment.

As the saying goes, here we have art imitating life. As my colleagues will remember from a floor speech I gave last year, this is part and parcel of what these organizations peddle to the general public. Their fearmongering knows no bounds. Just consider the debate over mercury emissions. President Bush proposed the first ever cap to reduce mercury emissions from powerplants by 70 percent. True to form, these groups said he was allowing more mercury into the air. Now stop and think about it. Right now there is no cap on mercury. It is proposed by this President for the first time.

As I mentioned earlier, several nations, including the United States, met in Buenos Aires in December for the 10th round of the international climate change negotiations. I am happy to report that the U.S. delegation held firm both in its categorical rejection of Kyoto and the questionable science behind it.

Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs and the leader of the U.S. delegation, put it very well when she told the conference:

Science tells us that we cannot say with any certainty what constitutes a dangerous level of warming, and therefore what level must be avoided.

Ms. Dobriansky and her team also rebuffed attempts by the European Union to drag the United States into discussions concerning post-Kyoto climate change commitments. With the ink barely dry on Kyoto ratification, not to mention what the science of climate change is telling us, Ms. Dobriansky was right in dubbing post-2012 talks premature.

It was clear from discussions in Buenos Aires that Kyoto supporters desperately want the United States to impose on itself mandatory greenhouse emissions controls. Moreover, there was considerable discussion but no apparent resolution over how to address emissions from developing countries such as India and especially China, which over the coming decades will be the world's leading emitter of greenhouse gases.

Developing nations, most notably China, remained adamant in Buenos Aires in opposing any mandatory greenhouse gas reductions now or any time in the future. Securing this commitment was a necessary component for the U.S. ratification of Kyoto.

Now, some may not have been here at the time, but 2 years ago we passed the Byrd-Hagel resolution that said that if Kyoto treats developing nations any different than developed nations, we will not ratify it. That passed 95 to 0. Every Senator voted that way, and it was very clear. So I think one can say with that commitment at least in the United States that Kyoto is dead.

Kyoto goes into force on February 16. According to the European Union Environmental Ministry, most EU member states will not meet their Kyoto targets. That is kind of interesting because the very people who are behind it and are so adamant that, yes, we must do this, are the ones who have not met their voluntary targets and have no real intention of doing so. They may do so only on paper due to Russia's ratification of the treaty.

Russia, of course, ratified Kyoto not because its government believes in catastrophic global warming—it does not—but because ratification was Russia's key to joining the World Trade Organization. Also, under Kyoto, Russia can profit from selling emission credits to the European Union and continue business as usual without undertaking economically harmful emissions reductions.

Just stop and think about this now. We are talking about the huge, massive country of Russia. I have been active in aviation for 48 years now, and I had occasion a few years ago to fly an airplane around the world, replicating the flight of Wiley Post. In doing so, I went all the way across Siberia. I can remember going not just hour after hour but time zone after time zone, seeing no signs of civilization, just great forests. Well, they ended up getting credits for all of that. When I talked to the

Russian people last year in Milan, Italy, they were very straightforward, saying: No, there is no science to it, but we stand to make millions of dollars if we sign on to this thing.

That was my first indication that they were going to do so.

So as the talks in Buenos Aires revealed, if alarmists cannot get what they want at the negotiating table, they will try other means. I was told by reliable sources that some delegation members of the European Union suddenly hinted that America's rejection of Kyoto could be grounds for a challenge under WTO. I surely hope this was just a hypothetical suggestion and not something our European friends are actively and seriously considering. I predict such a move would be devastating to the United States and the United States-European Union relations, not to mention the WTO itself.

I suspect it is not just hypothetical. The lawsuit is the stock and trade of environmental activists. We are witnessing a new crop of global warming lawsuits now being leveled at individual U.S. companies and at the United States itself.

In Buenos Aires, Earth Justice, a San Francisco-based environmental group, and the Center for International Law announced plans to seek a ruling from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights that the U.S., because of its supposed contribution to global warming, is causing environmental degradation in the Arctic and therefore violating the human rights of Alaska's Inuits, or Eskimos. As the New York Times wrote:

The commission, an investigative arm of the Organization of American States, has no enforcement powers. But a declaration that the United States has violated the Inuits' rights could create the foundation for an eventual lawsuit, either against the United States in an international court or against American companies in a U.S. court, said a number of legal experts, including some aligned with industry.

The Times did not mention that such lawsuits already have been filed with the U.S.

Eliot Spitzer, New York's State attorney general, along with eight other State attorneys general, mainly from the Northeast, last year sued five coal burning electric utilities in the Midwest. The reason: "Given that these are among the largest carbon dioxide polluters in the world," Mr. Spitzer wrote, "it is essential that the court direct them to reduce their emissions."

To me, this is a clear-cut sign of desperation by the alarmists, but I am not surprised. President Bush has rejected Kyoto. The Senate has rejected Kyoto 95 to 0. The Senate rejected the McCain-Lieberman bill by 55 to 43, and there is little hope that Congress will pass mandatory greenhouse gas reduction, at least not in the near future. So resorting to the courts is their last hope. I hope the courts have enough sense in moderation to reject these lawsuits out of hand.

I am interested, for one, to see how Mr. Spitzer quantifies with scientific precision just how these particular companies have contributed to climate change. How is it, one might ask, that emissions, specifically from American Electric Power, are causing rising sea levels, droughts, or hurricanes? Such efforts fly in the face of compelling new scientific evidence that makes a mockery of these lawsuits.

By now most everyone familiar with the climate change debate knows about the hockey stick graph constructed by Dr. Michael Mann and his colleagues which shows that temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere remained relatively stable over 900 years and then spiked upward in the 20th century. The hockey stick graph was featured prominently in IPCC's third assessment report published in 2001. The conclusion inferred from the hockey stick is that industrialization, which spawned widespread use of fossil fuels, is causing the planet to warm.

I spent considerable time examining this work in my 2003 speech because Dr. Michael Mann effectively erased the well-known phenomena of the medieval warming period. In other words, he never even recognized—I wish we had the chart because I have a chart that shows this, and one can see the shaft of the hockey stick over 900 years go like this, but all of a sudden in the 20th century it starts up like this, and they failed to realize that there was another blade in the hockey stick that was the medieval warming period where the temperatures were warmer than they are today. This has been going on since creation. I think the fact that he did it—I was challenged in a speech that I made in Italy on this subject. I said I believe Michael Mann must have intentionally left that off because that completely destroys the credibility of his findings.

But don't take my word for it. Just ask Dr. Hans Von Storch, a noted German climate researcher, who, along with colleagues, published a devastating finding in the Sept. 30, 2004 issue of *Science* magazine. As the authors wrote: "We were able to show in a publication in *Science* that this [hockey stick] graph contains assumptions that are not permissible. Methodologically it is wrong: Rubbish."

Dr. Von Storch and colleagues discovered that the Mann hockey stick had severely underestimated past climate variability. In a commentary on Dr. von Storch's paper, T.J. Osborn and K.R. Briffa, prominent paleoclimatologists from the University of East Anglia, stressed the importance of the findings. As they wrote, "The message of the study by von Storch et al. is that existing reconstructions of the NH [northern hemisphere] temperature of recent centuries may systematically underestimate the true centennial variability of climate" . . . and, "If the true natural variability of NH [northern hemisphere] temperature is indeed greater than is currently accepted, the

extent to which recent warming can be viewed as 'unusual' would need to be reassessed." In other words, in obliterating the Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age, Mann's hockey stick just doesn't pass muster.

Dr. Von Storch is one of many critics of Michael Mann's hockey stick. To recount just one example, three geophysicists from the University of Utah, in the April 7, 2004 issue of *Geophysical Research Letters*, concluded that Mann's methods used to create his temperature reconstruction were deeply flawed. In fact, their judgment is harsher than that. As they wrote, Mann's results are "based on using end points in computing changes in an oscillating series" and are "just bad science." I repeat: "just bad science."

As to the arctic climate assessment, these findings, alongside a spate of new reports, at least in the eyes of the media supposedly confirm the "consensus" on global warming. "The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment," released last fall, perfectly fits that mold. "Arctic Perils Seen in Warming," blared a headline by the New York Times. As the Times wrote: "The findings support the broad but politically controversial scientific consensus that global warming is caused mainly by rising atmosphere concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, and that the Arctic is the first region to feel its effects."

What do we really know about temperatures in the Arctic? Let's take a closer look. As Oregon State University climatologist George Taylor has shown, Arctic temperatures are actually slightly cooler today than they were in the 1930s. As Dr. Taylor has explained, it's all relative—in other words, it depends on the specific time period chosen in making temperature comparisons. The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, Dr. Taylor wrote: "appears to be guilty of selective use of data. Many of the trends described in the document begin in the 1960s or 1970s—cool decades in much of the world—and end in the warmer 1990s or early 2000s. So, for example, temperatures have warmed in the last 40 years, and the implication, 'if present trends continue,' is that massive warming will occur in the next century."

Dr. Taylor concluded this way: "Yet data are readily available for the 1930s and early 1940s, when temperatures were comparable to (and probably higher than) those observed today. Why not start the trend there? Because there is no net warming over the last 65 years?"

This is pretty convincing stuff. But, one might say, this is only one scientist, while nearly 300 scientists in several countries, including the United States, signed onto the Arctic report. I want to submit for the record a list of scientists, compiled by the Center For Science and Public Policy, from several countries, including the United States, whose published work shows current Arctic temperature is no higher than temperatures in 1930s and 1940s.

For example, according to a group of 7 scientists in a 2003 issue of the *Journal of Climate*: "In contrast to the global and hemispheric temperature, the maritime Arctic temperature was higher in the late 1930s through the early 1940s than in the 1990s." Or how about this excerpt from the 2000 *International Journal of Climatology*, by Dr. Rajmund Przybylak, of Nicholas Copernicus University, in Torun, Poland: "The highest temperatures since the beginning of instrumental observation occurred clearly in the 1930s and can be attributed to changes in atmospheric circulation."

I ask unanimous consent the list of scientists be printed in the *RECORD* at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

[See exhibit 1.]

Mr. INHOFE. Despite this evidence, alarmism is live and well. As you can see behind me, the *Washington Post* today ran an editorial cartoon that, yes, actually blames the Sumatra tsunami on global warming. Are we to believe now that global warming is causing earthquakes? The tsunami, of course, was caused by an earthquake off Sumatra's coast deep beneath the sea floor, completely disconnected from whatever the climate was doing at the surface. Regrettably, the tsunami-warming connection merely confirms the state of fear extremists are so eager to create. As Terence Corcoran of *Canada's Financial Post* wrote: "The urge to capitalize on the horror in Asia is just too great for some to resist if it might help their cause . . . Green Web sites are already filling up with references to tsunami risks associated with global warming."

There is something inhumane about that, that they would capitalize on the tragedy of a hundred thousand people to push a hoax like global warming.

To address this, let's ask some simple questions: Is global warming causing more extreme weather events of greater intensity, and is it causing sea levels to rise? The answer to all of these is emphatically no. Just look at this chart behind me. It's titled "Climate Related Disasters in Asia: 1900 to 1990s." What does it show? It shows the number of such disasters in Asia, and the deaths attributed to them, declining fairly sharply over the last 30 years.

Let's take hurricanes. Alarmists linked last year's hurricanes that devastated parts of Florida to global warming. But this is patently false. Credible meteorologists were quick to dismiss such claims. Hugh Willoughby, senior scientist at the International Hurricane Research Center of Florida International University stated plainly: "This isn't a global-warming sort of thing. . . It's a natural cycle." A team led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Dr. Christopher Landsea concluded that the relationship of global temperatures to the number of intense land-falling hur-

ricanes is either non-existent or very weak. In this chart you can see that the overall number of hurricanes and the number of the strongest hurricanes fluctuated greatly during the last century, with a great number in the 1940s. In fact, through the last decade, the intensity of these storms has declined somewhat.

What about sea level rise? Alarmists have claimed for years that sea level, because of anthropogenic warming, is rising rapidly. Based on modeling, the IPCC estimated that sea level will rise 1.8 millimeters annually, or about one-fourteenth of an inch.

But in a study published this year in *Global and Planetary Change*, Dr. Nils-Axel Morner of Sweden found that sea level rise hysteria was overblown. In his study, which relied not only on observational records, but also on satellites he concluded that: "there is a total absence of any recent 'acceleration in sea level rise' as often claimed by IPCC and related groups." Yet we still hear of a future world overwhelmed by floods due to global warming. Such claims are completely out of touch with science. As Sweden's Morner puts it, "there is no fear of massive future flooding as claimed in most global warming scenarios."

What I have outlined today will not appear in the *New York Times*. Instead you will read much about "consensus" and Kyoto and hand wringing by its editorial writers that unrestricted carbon dioxide emissions from the United States are harming the planet. You will read nothing, of course, about how Kyoto-like policies harm Americans, especially the poor and minorities, causing higher energy prices, reduced economic growth, and fewer jobs. After all, that is the real purpose behind Kyoto, as Morgot Wallstrom, the EU's environment minister, said in a moment of candor. To her, Kyoto is about "leveling the playing field" for businesses worldwide—in other words, we can't compete, so let's use a feel-good treaty, based on shoddy science, fear, and alarmism, which will have no perceptible impact on the environment, to restrict America's economic growth and prosperity. Unfortunately for Ms. Wallstrom and Kyoto's staunchest advocates, America was wise to the scheme, and it has rejected Kyoto and similar policies convincingly. Whatever Kyoto is about—to some, such as French President Jacques Chirac, it's about forming "an authentic global governance"—it's the wrong policy and it won't work, as many participants in Buenos Aires conceded.

I recommend—and I will include at the end of my remarks—the economic study which was done by the Wharton School of Economics talking about what would happen to America and the cost of global warming. If we should sign on to Kyoto, what would it cost? They go into detail. They talk about doubling the price of energy. They talk about the price of fuel more than doubling.

Keep in mind this is the economic survey. They talk about the cost to the average family of four in America being \$2,715 a year by 2010.

People have to understand that the economic destruction of our country is something that would inure to the benefit of the European Union and many others who are in competition with us. We have to understand that there is an economic motive behind it which one would have to seriously consider.

Despite the bias, omissions, and distortions by the media and extremist groups, the real story about global warming is being told and, judging by the success of Michael Crichton's "State of Fear," much to the dismay of certain groups, it is now being told to the American public.

I think one thing which we all have to understand in this body is we have to recognize the fact that we have an energy crisis in America today. Right now, there are a few people around the country who are now catching on that it is true. We need all forms of energy to run this great machine called America. Our forms of energy can be nuclear, they can be renewable, they can be fossil fuel, coal, oil, gas, all of the above. It is what we will have to have in order to be competitive.

Chairing the committee and being active in the upcoming energy bill, we anticipate being realistic in thinking about not just ourselves today—not just my four kids or my 12 grandchildren and future generations—but you are going to have to run this most successful, highly industrialized machine ever conceived in the history of the world. And you can't do it sitting around closing the door on all opportunities that we have for energy. Certainly one is coal.

Certainly we need to look at this whole issue of global warming and what the real motives are of these people who are behind this.

I gave a speech on this floor the last session and talked about the amount of money—I am also going to insert that for the *RECORD*—being paid to elect people, money that is being filtered through a lot of these organizations. There is a lot of money made out there by causing people to be fearful, by making people afraid, by making people feel that the world is coming to an end. It is not.

EXHIBIT I SCIENTIST

Rajmund Przybylak, Department of Climatology, Nicholas Copernicus University, Torun, Poland

PAPER

Temporal and spatial variance of surface air temperature over the period of instrumental observations in the Arctic, *International Journal of Climatology*, 20, 587-614, 2000.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

"A detailed analysis of the spatial and temporal changes in mean seasonal and annual surface air temperatures over the period of instrumental observations in the Arctic is presented . . . The presented analysis

shows that the observed variations in air temperature in the real Arctic (defined on the basis of climate as opposed to other criteria, e.g. astronomical or botanical) are in many aspects not consistent with the projected climatic changes computed by climatic models for the enhanced greenhouse effect. The highest temperatures since the beginning of instrumental observation occurred clearly in the 1930s and can be attributed to changes in atmospheric circulation. The second phase of contemporary global warming (after 1975) is, at most, weakly marked in the Arctic. For example, the mean rate of warming for the period 1991–1995 was 2–3 times lower in the Arctic than the global average. Temperature levels observed in Greenland in the last 10–20 years are similar to those observed in the 19th century.”

SCIENTISTS

Igor V. Polyakov, Roman V. Bekryaev, Uma S. Bhatt, Roger L. Colony, Alexander P. Maskhshtas, David Walsh, International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska

Genrikh V. Alekseev, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia

Mark A. Johnson, Institute of Marine Science, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

Variability and trends of air temperature and pressure in the Maritime Arctic, 1875–2000, *Journal of Climate*, 16, 2086–2092, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

“Arctic atmospheric variability during the industrial era (1875–2000) is assessed using spatially averaged surface air temperature (SAT) and sea level pressure (SLP) records. Air temperature and pressure display strong multidecadal variability on timescales of 50–80 yr. Associated with this variability, the Arctic SAT record shows two maxima: in the 1930s–40s and in recent decades, with two colder periods in between. In contrast to the global and hemispheric temperature, the maritime Arctic temperature was higher in the late 1930s through the early 1940s than in the 1990s.”

SCIENTISTS

James. E. Overland, Harold O. Mofjeld, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pacific Marine Laboratory, Seattle, Washington

Michael C. Spillane, Donald B. Percival, Muyin Wang, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

PAPER

Seasonal and regional variation of pan-arctic surface air temperature over the instrumental record. *Journal of Climate*, 17, 3263–3282, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

This paper presents results that show that there are seasonal and regional differences in the patterns of historical temperature in the Arctic. With the exception of spring, the authors report that the current climate in the Arctic is not unique in the instrumental record (which begins in the late 1800s).

SCIENTISTS

Vladimir A. Semenov, Lennart Bengtsson, Max Plank Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany

PAPER

Modes of the wintertime Arctic air temperature variability. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 30, 1781–1784, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

The researchers present results which show that average Arctic temperature undergoes

large variations, driven by the dominance of different internal modes. The most recent temperature rise is shown to be related to atmospheric circulation factors in the North Atlantic Ocean while an early 20th century warming of nearly equal magnitude was possibly related to long-term sea ice variations.

TOPIC: RECENT CLIMATE CHANGE IN ALASKA

As a U.S. Senator, you were rightly concerned about the state of the conditions in Alaska, and on repeated instances you asked for specifics about observed climate changes there. On each and every occasion, you only received a partial collection of facts about historical temperature and temperature trends that would lead an interested listener to believe that anthropogenic global warming was responsible for the large change in Alaskan temperatures observed over the past 30 to 40 years. In fact, a natural climate shift in the Pacific Ocean that occurred in 1976 is responsible for the observed climate changes in Alaska. Below is a list of researchers, many from the Alaska Climate Research Center at the University of Alaska, who could have supplied you with these facts that were missing from your hearing:

SCIENTISTS

Gerd Wendler, Director and Professor Emeritus, Martin Stuefer, Research Associate, Martha Shulski, Climatologist, Brian Hartmann, Assistant Climatologist, Alaska Climate Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 903 Koyukuk Drive, P.O. Box 757320, Fairbanks, AK 99775–7320

WEB SITE

Temperature Change in Alaska, 1949–2003, <http://climate.gi.alaska.edu/ClimTrends/Change/4903Change.html>

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

“The topic of climate change has attracted widespread attention in recent years and is an issue that numerous scientists study on various time and space scales. One thing for sure is that the earth’s climate has and will continue to change as a result of various natural and anthropogenic forcing mechanisms.

“This page features the trends in mean annual and seasonal temperatures for Alaska’s first-order observing stations since 1949 (Fig. 1), the time period for which reliable meteorological data are available. The temperature change varies from one climatic zone to another as well as for different seasons. If a linear trend is taken through mean annual temperatures, the average change over the last 5 decades is about 3.0°F. However, when analyzing the trends for the four seasons, it can be seen that most of the change has occurred in winter and spring, with less of a change in summer and even slight cooling in autumn (see Table below).

“Considering just a linear trend can mask some important variability characteristics in the time series. Figure 2 shows clearly that this trend is non-linear: a linear trend might have been expected from the fairly steady observed increase of CO₂ during this time period. The figure shows the temperature departure from the long-term mean (1949–2003) for the average of all stations. It can be seen that there are large variations from year to year and the 5-year moving average demonstrates cyclical behavior. The period 1949 to 1975 was substantially colder than the period from 1977 to 2003, however since 1977 no additional warming has occurred in Alaska with the exception of Barrow and a few other locations. In 1976, a stepwise shift appears in the temperature data, which corresponds to a phase shift of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation from a negative phase to a positive phase. Synoptic con-

ditions with the positive phase tend to consist of increased southerly flow and warm air advection into Alaska during the winter, resulting in positive temperature anomalies. Click on the table above to see temperature change after the 1976 shift, and for other time periods.”

SCIENTISTS

Brian Hartmann, Gerd Wendler, Alaska Climate Research Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

Manifestations of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation shift of 1976 within Alaskan climatology. Seventh Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography and Joint Symposium on High-Latitude Climate Variations. May 12–16, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

“During the year of 1976, the index of the PDO [Pacific Decadal Oscillation] underwent a shift from one of strongly negative phase to one of strongly positive phase. The general circulation and temperature differences witnessed during each of the phases is generally well known, but a fine scale study to understand specific climatological effects within Alaska, including the differing regional effects and responses to the abrupt change, has not been conducted. The present study is an effort to clearly discern the specific manner in which the regime shift was experienced throughout Alaska.”

“The magnitude and sudden nature of the shift in the PDO Index is paralleled by strong local temperature increases in Alaska, suggesting that significant local changes in other meteorological variables should be seen as well . . .

“[Atmospheric circulation patterns associated with the 1976 PDO regime shift] explain the immense warming of 10 °C observed in January from one decade to the next in the Interior, a value far beyond that which can be explained by increased CO₂ and other green house gases.”

SCIENTISTS

Brian Hartmann, Gerd Wendler, Alaska Climate Research Center, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

On the significance of the 1976 Pacific climate shift in the climatology of Alaska, *Journal of Climate*, under review.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

“The 1976 Pacific climate shift is examined and its manifestations and significance in Alaskan climatology during the last half-century are demonstrated. The regime shift is quantified by the Pacific Decadal Oscillation Index shift in 1976 from dominantly negative values for the 25-year time period 1951–1975 to dominantly positive values for the period 1977–2001.

“Mean annual and seasonal temperatures for the positive phase were up to 3.1 °C higher than for the negative phase. Likewise, mean cloudiness, wind speeds, and precipitation amounts increased while mean sea level pressure and geopotential heights decreased. The pressure decrease resulted in a deepening of the Aleutian Low in winter and spring. The intensification of the Aleutian Low increased the advection of relatively warm and moist air to Alaska and storminess over the state.

“The regime shift is also examined for its effect on the long-term temperature trends throughout the state. The trends that have shown climatic warming are strongly biased by the sudden shift from the cooler regime to a warmer regime in 1976. When analyzing the

total time period from 1951 to 2001, warming is observed, however the 25-year period trend analyses before 1976 (1951–1975) and thereafter (1977–2001) both display cooling. In this paper we emphasize the importance of taking into account the sudden changes that result from abrupt climatic shifts, persistent regimes and the possibility of cyclic oscillations, such as the PDO, in the analysis of long-term climate change in Alaska.”

SCIENTISTS

Feng Sheng Hu, University of Illinois, Urbana Illinois

Emi Ito, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Thomas A. Brown, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California
B. Brandon Curry, Illinois State Geological Survey, Champaign, Illinois

Daniel R. Engstrom, Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix, Minnesota

PAPER

Pronounced climatic variations in Alaska during the last two millennia. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 98, 10552–10556, 2001.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

“We conducted multiproxy geochemical analysis of a sediment core from Farewell Lake (62° 33' N, 153° 38' W, 320m altitude) in the northwestern foothills of the Alaska Range. These analysis provide the first high-resolution (multidecadal) quantitative record of Alaskan climate variations that spans the last two millennia. . . . Our SWT [surface water temperature] reconstruction at Farewell Lake indicates that although the 20th century, represented by the uppermost three samples, was among the warmest periods of the past two millennia, two earlier intervals may have been comparably warm (A.D. 0–300 and A.D. 850–1200). These data agree with tree-ring evidence from Fennoscandia, indicating that the recent warmth is not atypical of the past 1000 years.”

TOPIC: SEA ICE DECLINES

During your Senate Committee hearing, you also heard testimony about the observed declines in Arctic sea ice during the past several decades and how that in some climate model prognostications, summer sea ice totally disappears from the northern oceans by the end of the 21st century. However, no one told you that a large portion of the observed sea ice declines is related to natural variability, or that in some regions it does not appear that current conditions are any more or less unusual than sea ice condition during the 19th century. Had you invited the scientists below to testify, you would have been made aware of these opinions.

SCIENTISTS:

James E. Overland, Pacific Marine Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Seattle, Washington

Kevin Wood, Arctic Research Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland

PAPER

Accounts from 19th-century Canadian Arctic Explorers' Logs Reflect Present Climate Conditions, *EOS Transactions of the American Geophysical Union*, 84, October 7, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

“The widely perceived failure of 19th-century expeditions to find and transit the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic is often attributed to extraordinary cold climate conditions associated with the “Little Ice Age” evident in proxy records. However, examination of 44 explorers' logs for the western Arctic from 1818 to 1910 reveals that

climate indicators such as navigability, the distribution and thickness of annual sea ice, monthly surface air temperatures, and the onset of melt and freeze were within the present range of variability.”

SCIENTISTS

Ignatius G. Rigor, John M. Wallace, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Roger L. Colony, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

Response of Sea Ice to the Arctic Oscillation, *Journal of Climate*, 15, 2648–2663, 2002.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

“Increased advection of the ice away from the coast during winter during high-index conditions of the AO [Arctic Oscillation] enhanced the production of thin ice in the flow leads of the East Siberian and Laptev Seas. The cyclonic SIM [sea ice motion] anomaly also enhances the production of thin ice during winter because of the increase in divergence over the eastern Arctic. Both of these processes contribute to thinning of sea ice. These changes in SIM have contributed to the observed trends in sea ice, such as the decreases in ice area and extent, and the thinning of sea ice.

“The changes in SIM also appear to be at least partially responsible for the trends in SAT [surface air temperature] reported by Rigor et al. (2000); that is, the increased latent heat released during the formation of new ice in the diverging leads, and the increased heat flux through thinner ice have contributed to the pronounced warming that has been observed in the East Siberian and Laptev portions of the warm anomaly. Intuitively, one might have expected the warming trends in SAT to cause the thinning of sea ice, but the results presented in this study imply the inverse causality; that is, the thinning ice has warmed SAT by increasing the heat flux from the ocean.”

SCIENTISTS

Greg Holloway, Tessa Sou, Institute of Ocean Sciences, Sidney, British Columbia

PAPER

Has Arctic Sea Ice Rapidly Thinned? *Journal of Climate*, 15, 1691–1701, 2002.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

“Reports based on submarine sonar data have suggested Arctic sea ice has thinned nearly by half in recent decades. Such rapid thinning is a concern for detection of global change and for Arctic regional impacts. Including atmospheric time series, ocean currents and river runoff into an ocean-ice-snow model show that the inferred rapid thinning was unlikely. The problem stems from undersampling. Varying winds that readily redistribute Arctic ice create a recurring pattern whereby ice shifts between the central Arctic and peripheral regions, especially in the Canadian sector. Timing and tracks of the submarine surveys missed this dominant mode of variability.”

SCIENTIST

P. Windsor, Department of Oceanography, Earth Sciences Centre, Göteborg University, Göteborg, Sweden

PAPER

Arctic Sea Ice Thickness Remained Constant during the 1990s, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 28, 1039–1041, 2001.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

“The ice cover of the Arctic Ocean is considered to be a sensitive indicator of global climate change. Recent research, using submarine-based observations, suggests that the

Arctic ice cover was thinner in the 1990s compared to an earlier period (1958–1979), and that it continued to decrease in thickness in the 1990s. Here I analyze subsurface ice thickness (draft) of Arctic sea ice from six submarine cruises from 1991 to 1997. This extensive data set shows that there was no trend towards a thinning ice cover during the 1990s. Data from the North Pole shows a slight increase in mean ice thickness, whereas the Beaufort Sea shows a small decrease, none of which are significant. Transects between the two areas from 76° N to 90° N also show near constant ice thicknesses, with a general spatial decrease from the Pole towards the Beaufort Sea. Combining the present results with those of an earlier study, I conclude that the mean ice thickness has remained on a near-constant level around the North Pole from 1986 to 1997.”

SCIENTIST

Torgny Vijnje, Norwegian Polar Institute, Oslo, Norway

PAPER

Anomalies and Trends of Sea-Ice Extent and Atmospheric Circulation in the Nordic Seas during the Period 1864–1998, *Journal of Climate*, 14, 255–254, 2001.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

Vinje constructed a 135-yr time series of sea ice extent in the Nordic Seas and found that while April sea ice extent has declined by about 33 percent during this period, more than half of the decline occurred before 1900. Vinje concluded that “the time series indicates that we are in a state of continued recovery from the cooling effects of the Little Ice Age, during which a maximum sea-ice expansion was observed around 1800, both in the Iceland Sea and the Barents Sea.”

SCIENTISTS

Igor V. Polyakov, Mark A. Johnson, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

Arctic decadal and interdecadal variability, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 27, 4097–4100, 2000.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS:

“The rapid reduction of arctic ice thickness in the 1990s may be one manifestation of the intense atmosphere and ice cyclonic circulation regime due to the synchronous actions of the AO [Arctic Oscillation] and LFO [low-frequency oscillation]. Our results suggest that the decadal AO and multi-decadal LFO drive large amplitude natural variability in the Arctic making a detection of possible long-term trends induced by greenhouse gas warming most difficult.”

TOPIC: GREENLAND MELTING

Another topic one which you heard testimony was the rapid melting of Greenland ice sheets and their potential contribution to rapid global sea level rise. However, none of the panelists told you that there has been an overall decline in Greenland temperatures during the past 60s years, and that despite the warming trend in Greenland during the last decade or so, temperatures still have not reached levels as high there as they were during the 1930s and 1940s.

SCIENTISTS

Petr Chylek, Space and Remote Sensing Sciences, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico

Jason E. Box, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Glen Lesins, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

PAPER

Global Warming and the Greenland Ice Sheet, *Climatic Change*, 63, 201–221, 2004.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

"The Greenland surface air temperature trends over the past 50 years do not show persistent warming, in contrast to global average surface air temperatures. The Greenland coastal stations temperature trends over the second half of the past century generally exhibit a cooling tendency with superimposed decadal scale oscillations related to the NAO. At the Greenland ice sheet summit, the temperature record shows a decrease in the summer average temperature at the rate of about 2.2° C/decade, suggesting that the Greenland ice sheet at high elevations does not follow the global warming trend either.

"A significant and rapid temperature increase was observed at all Greenland stations between 1920 and 1930. The average annual temperature rose between 2 and 4 °C in less than ten years. Since the change in anthropogenic production of greenhouses gases at that time was considerably lower than today, this rapid temperature increase suggests a large natural variability of the regional climate.

"High anticorrelations ($r = -0.84$ to -0.93) between the NAO index and the Greenland temperature records suggest a physical link between these processes. The recent negative shift of the NAO correlates with 1990s warming in Greenland. The NAO may play a crucial role in determining local Greenland climate during the 21st century; resulting in a local climate that may defy the global climate change. This possibility should be considered in models of ice sheet melt and future sea level rise. Forecasting changes in the NAO may be a primary factor in predicting the future Greenland ice sheet mass balance."

SCIENTISTS

Edward Hanna, Institute of Marine Studies, University of Plymouth

John Cappelen, Danish Meteorological Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark

PAPER

Recent cooling in coastal southern Greenland and relation with the North Atlantic Oscillation, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 30, doi:10.1029/2002GLO15797, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

"Analysis of new data for eight stations in coastal southern Greenland, 1958–2001, shows a significant cooling (trend-line change -1.29 °C for the 44 years), as do sea-surface temperatures in the adjacent part of the Labrador Sea, in contrast to global warming ($+0.53$ °C over the same period). The land and sea temperature series follow similar patterns and are strongly correlated but with no obvious lead/lag either way. This cooling is significantly inversely correlated with an increased phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) over the past few decades ($r = -0.76$), and will probably have significantly affected the mass balance of the Greenland Ice Sheet."

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ASIAN TSUNAMI

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the world's thoughts and prayers continue

to be focused on the victims of the Asian tsunami. The international community, including governments, private businesses, and ordinary citizens, is providing financial aid and material assistance to affected countries in that region. President Bush and other world leaders deserve praise for quickly providing substantial assistance and resources to disaster response efforts across that region. They have brought hope and relief in the midst of despair.

I want to recognize in particular Japan's substantial pledge to ongoing relief efforts. As chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I intend to continue to work closely with the administration in the days and weeks to come to assess damage and provide targeted relief.

Let me close with an observation on Burma. Predictably, information on the extent of damage in Burma is unknown—this is the way the Burmese junta operates—with the official casualty tally placed by the illegitimate State Peace and Development Council at 59 people. Do international donors, regional governments, or humanitarian NGOs trust this figure? The simple answer, as articulated by Secretary Powell earlier today, is we don't. We don't trust the figure. We don't have any idea how many people either died or are suffering in Burma.

The lack of action or interest in the welfare of the people of Burma, by the military junta, should not be lost on all of the ASEAN members and their dialog partners ahead of the SPDC's chairmanship of that organization in 2006.

I thank everybody on the ground—from personnel at the State Department, USAID, and the Department of Defense to the dedicated staff of humanitarian organizations—for working around the clock with respective governments in those hard-hit countries. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed in the Senate. As we move forward with this relief effort in the near future, our prayers are for those efforts that are being made to ease the incalculable suffering of the people affected by the tsunami.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO DAVID ARMAND DEKEYSER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Armand DeKeyser, my chief of staff for 8 years, who is going out into the commercial world. This is a big event for me. It is painful, indeed, to lose one with whom I have been so closely associated for so long. I have

known him and worked with him for more than 25 years. We met as we served together for nearly 10 years in the U.S. Army Reserve in Mobile, AL, the 1184th Transportation Terminal Unit. We went to annual training together and became good friends. Armand and his wife Beverly had returned to Mobile after he completed his Active-Duty service with the U.S. Army in Germany. He first, after he returned, worked in the seafood business, Star Fish and Oyster Company, that had been in his family for over 80 years. After another business experience, I hired him as a law enforcement coordinator when I became U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Alabama.

Perhaps his most important contribution there was his leadership for the Weed and Seed Program that revitalized the Martin Luther King neighborhood in Mobile, AL. He helped get the citizens of the community together and drew up a plan for a neighborhood redevelopment program. The city, the county, and the Federal Government all worked together. He did a superb job.

It was a great success. Today that neighborhood is an entirely different community than it was in the early 1990s. I later told him, when they put you in the ground, this is one achievement you know made the world better.

In 1994, I was elected attorney general of Alabama, and the office was in the midst of a funding crisis—and I mean crisis; I do not mean a 1, 2, or 3-percent shortfall. Spending was on track to exceed the funds available to the office by \$5 million, and the budget was a \$10 million budget.

I chose Armand to be our administrative officer, and his performance was superb. Automobiles were sold, all of them—virtually all of them. Offsite offices were closed. Nonmerit system employees were let go. One-third of the office, virtually all nonmerit employees, had to be terminated—one-third of the Office of the Attorney General. The workload had to be completely reorganized as a result, and Armand's work during that time was nothing short of heroic.

Then in 1996, I was elected to the Senate, and I asked him to serve as my chief of staff. What a great decision that was. He and Beverly agreed to come to Washington—after he and I lived together and shared an apartment together here for a while, a three-story walkup—to take on the task of helping this new and inexperienced Senator get started.

He worked harder and longer during his 8 years than any other employee on our staff. He knows people all over our State, and they like and trust him. He managed so ably we were able to return to the U.S. Treasury each year a substantial portion of the funds given to our office by the Senate.

Most of all, he helped me and others on our staff achieve our best. He subordinated himself to serve the office with

fideli ty, diligence, and integrity. Chief of staff is not an easy job, but his gifts and graces were a perfect fit. Whether he was encouraging young staffers, dealing with Governors, generals, administration officials, or the many constituents who call on us for help, he performed superbly.

His military service, including Active Duty and the Army Reserve, was a very valuable asset in his service to me. In fact, the 1184th, after I got out of it, was activated, and he spent almost a year in Kuwait as part of Desert Storm. He retired after 28 years of service with the military at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The key to Armand's success and his value to our office, I believe, was his deep commitment to an America where the right thing is done and where there is an efficient and lawful process for doing the people's work. He never forgot that the money we spend here has been extracted from some decent American who would otherwise find good use for it. Armand believes we must be good stewards of that money, and that programs and spending are only worthwhile if they produce a valuable return. He feels passionately about this, and our shared values in this regard made us a good team, I think.

He has been a superb public servant, and by thousands of individual acts of accountability, frugality, and integrity—mostly unnoticed by the press or anyone else particularly—he has saved the dutiful taxpayers of America tens of millions of dollars. When he came to Washington, I told him that because of my poor abilities, I needed to have the best staff we could put together. As a result of his leadership, I believe we created and have maintained a magnificent team, without whose help I could not have been successful.

In addition to his wife Beverly, whom I admire so much and with whom he attended Murphy High School in Mobile, where my daughter attended, and Auburn University, he has two fine sons: Phillip, a graduate of Georgia Tech and now a consulting engineer, and David, who commenced as a student at Boston College. He is and has every right to be extremely proud of them.

He and Beverly have opened their lives and home to my staff throughout the years. Serving as a "home away from home" for many Alabamians in the area and staff people, Armand's house has been the site of holiday and office gatherings on numerous occasions.

Over the years, his ability to make the staff feel more like a family has earned him the friendship and affection of many. Many of our staff, as well as their parents, appreciate that.

I and all our team truly appreciate the open-door policy he has had with staff and recognize all the work he has done to keep things running smoothly in the office.

He has served extraordinarily well and faithfully, and it is now appro-

priate and just that Armand undertake new opportunities.

While I am sad to see him leave, I know he is about to embark on a great new career as executive director of the Government Relations Group at Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP, one of America's finest law firms. I am confident he will meet the challenge of the new job with the same professionalism and dedication he has shown for the past 8 years as my chief of staff. His years of public service may be over for now, but his commitment to the Nation and the principles on which it was founded will never waiver.

I wish him all the best. I close with one final remark close to Armand's Auburn heart: War eagle.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL AARON HOLLAND

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Aaron Holland of Columbus, NE, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. Lance Corporal Holland was killed in a car accident on December 17, 2004 near Richfield, UT, while returning home to Columbus from his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was 21 years old.

Lance Corporal Holland graduated from Columbus High School and is survived by his mother Becky and stepfather Paul Knopick; two stepbrothers, Silas and Paul Knopick; grandparents, Lois and Edmund Mueller; and uncle, Mark Mueller; all of Columbus. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. The United States of America is proud of Aaron Holland's service and mourns his loss.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. fostered Holland's interest in a military career and after graduating in 2002, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After completing his training, he served with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, CA. Holland served two tours in Iraq, from February to July 2003 and from February to August 2004. Lance Corporal Holland will be remembered as a loyal marine who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Lance Corporal Holland are currently serving in Iraq.

For his service, bravery and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring LCpl Aaron Holland.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA A. RAMSEY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man who lived in Marion, IN as a child. PFC Joshua Ramsey, 19 years old, died on December 12 when he was shot while carrying out his duties in Iraq. With his entire life before him, Joshua risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

After attending Oak Hill Junior High School for the eighth grade, Joshua moved to Defiance, OH where his father and stepmother live. Joshua, a 2003 graduate of the Four County Career Center, left a strong impression not only on his classmates but his teachers as well. One of his high school teachers, Tonya Fisher, shared some memories of her former student with the Marion Chronicle Tribune saying, "He was a good student and a good classmate. He worked really hard in class and was really dedicated. He knew he wanted to go to the military...He's very family-oriented. He struggled with leaving his family, but he really believed in what he was fighting for." Joshua's mother, Joy, recalled her son's bravery during a conversation she had with him not long ago. He told her, "Mom, I have one of the most dangerous jobs in the Army, but I wouldn't have it any other way."

Joshua was the 42nd Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 95th Military Police Battalion, Mannheim, Germany. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Joy; his father, Bruce; and his stepmother, LeAnn.

Today, I join Joshua's family, his friends and the entire Hoosier community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Joshua, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Joshua was known for his dedication to others and his love of family and country. When looking back on Joshua's life, his grandmother, Margaret, told the Marion Chronicle Tribune that he had loved golf, was on the wrestling team and ran track. Today and always, Joshua will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Joshua's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Joshua's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Joshua Ramsey in the official record of the United States Senate for his

service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Joshua's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Joshua.

LOSS OF FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISOLM AND CONGRESSMAN ROBERT MATSUI

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, this week, our Nation suffered the loss of two of the finest Americans to grace the public stage in my life time.

Congressman MATSUI and I served here together, and as a result of our passionate efforts to preserve and protect Social Security, and from leading our respective caucus's campaign efforts last year, BOB and I became friends.

BOB was a man of strong beliefs and principles and a tireless advocate for children, women, minorities, seniors and virtually every segment of society that too often has been left behind. I am saddened by his passing and my heart goes out to his family, friends and constituents.

Those of us who knew BOB are richer for the experience, and the institution of Congress is poorer now that he is gone.

Shirley Chisholm too was a woman of strong belief and character. I am deeply saddened by her death and my thoughts and prayers are with her family.

When Shirley Chisholm was elected the first African-American woman to Congress in 1968 America was in the midst of dramatic change. Congresswoman Chisholm's refusal to be labeled or marginalized by what she called "a small group of old men" in Washington challenged the status quo and changed America for the better. Her barrier-breaking run for the 1972 Democratic Presidential nomination represented the best qualities of our democracy. Her unique friendships, bi-partisan style and staunch advocacy for the people she represented are a lesson to us all. She will be missed.

ROTARY CENTENNIAL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as we begin a new year and a new Congress, more than 1.2 million Rotarians in 166 countries are beginning the centennial celebration of Rotary International.

On February 23, 1905, the Rotary Club of Chicago was formed by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wanted to recapture the friendly spirit of small-town America in a big-city professional club. The new group took its name from the practice of rotating club meetings among members' offices.

Rotary quickly grew, with clubs forming across the country and around the world. At the same time, the organization's interests expanded from social and professional interests to community service.

Along with public service, Rotary has given the world a high standard of ethics known as the 4-Way Test. This test asks the following four questions of the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

During and after World War II, Rotary International became deeply involved in efforts to promote global peace and understanding. Rotary members actively supported the founding of the United Nations and helped to establish UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

In recent years, Rotary International has helped communities around the world to address some of the critical needs of our day, including disease, hunger, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and children at risk. Rotary has been the lead organization in PolioPlus, a global effort to immunize all the world's children against polio.

On the occasion of the Rotary Centennial, I send my sincere appreciation and best wishes to Rotary International and Rotarians everywhere.

MAD COW DISEASE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, in today's Federal Register, the United States Department of Agriculture has published a final rule that could have significant adverse impacts on our domestic cattle industry. The regulation I am referring to designates Canada as a "minimal risk region" for BSE, known as mad cow disease, and allows Canada to export more beef and beef products to the United States.

I understand the desire of the administration to work with Canada, and I know how frustrated Canadian cattlemen are with the current situation. It is the same frustration my Montana cattlemen feel, as they watch Australia and New Zealand expand market share in the Pacific Rim, while those markets remain closed off to the U.S. But this rule has some significant problems, and to the extent that those flaws could harm domestic consumer confidence and the reopening of international markets, I'm not going to support the administration's decision to open the U.S.-Canadian border to increased Canadian exports.

As I am sure everyone recalls, in May 2003, Canada discovered a case of BSE in Alberta. To protect the safety of America's food supply, USDA banned all imports of Canadian beef. In December of that same year, a Canadian-born dairy cow in Washington State with BSE was discovered and so we have the

cow that stole Christmas. Important export markets around the world closed their doors to U.S. beef, the highest quality beef in the world. USDA then instituted a rapid screening pilot program to test random cattle samples for BSE. To date, the United States thankfully has never had a case of BSE in a U.S.-born cow.

Since BSE jumped to the forefront of the cattle industry in 2003, USDA has been working with other nations, such as Japan and Korea, to reopen markets to U.S. beef. In October 2004, Japan agreed in principle to begin accepting U.S. beef and beef products from cattle under 20 months of age. While that agreement represents an important step forward, exports have not yet started because of scientific and technical obstacles. I remain optimistic that exports will begin this spring, and would be very concerned about any decisions that could jeopardize our relationship with Japan.

In addition to negotiating the resumption of U.S. exports, USDA has also been working with Canada to resume imports of Canadian beef. USDA began accepting Canadian boneless beef from cattle under 30 months of age in August 2003. In October 2003, USDA first proposed designating Canada as a minimal risk region, but after the December 2003 discovery of BSE, the rule was delayed. With the exception of a few incidents, that trade has generally been uneventful, and has had little impact on U.S. cattle prices. Most importantly, consumer confidence in the food supply remains strong.

But today I fear USDA has gone too far.

The rule published in today's Federal Register, which takes effect on March 7, will allow Canada to export to the United States live cattle under 30 months of age for feeding or immediate slaughter; sheep and goats under 12 months of age for feeding or immediate slaughter; meat from cattle, sheep, goats and cervids—deer, elk, caribou, moose and reindeer; and certain other products and byproducts, including bovine livers and tongues, gelatin, and tallow. Feeder cattle must be branded to indicate country of origin, must have an eartag so we can trace back to the premises of origin, and must be slaughtered before reaching 30 months of age. The identification requirements must be preserved only to the point of slaughter, not carried through to the retail level. Cattle designed for immediate slaughter must move as a group in a sealed container to the facility and must be slaughtered as a group.

As I said, this regulation has some significant problems, most notably, Canada's enforcement of its feed ban and the decision to allow beef and beef products from cattle slaughtered at any age. USDA needs to withdraw this rule now and fix these problems.

USDA asserts that Canada has high levels of compliance with its feed ban, but fails to provide the hard data that supports that finding. In fact, USDA's

own risk assessment states that in 2002, 8 percent of feed mills were not in compliance with the feed ban. This indicates that feed contamination is a recent issue, rather than a concern taken care of years ago.

Even more surprisingly, the risk analysis states that the fact that no cases of BSE have been found in animals born after the feed ban is evidence that the feed ban is working. USDA claims that this rule is based only on science, but that is hardly a scientific assessment. It could just as likely be evidence that Canada is not testing enough samples in its rapid screening process. Montana ranchers are not going to rest easy based on these findings.

On Dec. 17, the Vancouver Sun ran an article indicating that nearly 60 percent of Canadian feed contains "undeclared animal parts", but that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CFIA, decided not to use DNA testing to determine if the feed is contaminated with cattle materials. While the presence of animal parts does not necessarily indicate feed ban violations, Canada should be willing to take necessary steps to reassure the United States, as well as its own cattle producers, that the feed is not contaminated. Failing to act represents a lack of commitment to enforcing the feed ban, in contrast to the effectiveness that USDA is willing to presume. Industry sources quoted in that article expressed concern about conflicting messages from CFIA, yet USDA seems quite willing to rely on CFIA representations for its scientific assessments.

Similarly, the decision to allow beef and beef products from cattle slaughtered at any age is troubling. These products are likely to contain animals born before Canada's 7-year feed ban. While USDA seems certain that Canada can safeguard against contaminated beef, the rule provides little evidence to support that claim. In fact, USDA clearly admits that beef products could contain animals that have consumed contaminated feed, but brushes off the risk as "low." Let me repeat—I am certain of the safety of the U.S. food supply. However, I remain concerned that USDA has not fully evaluated the impact on consumer confidence of resuming Canadian imports.

In its risk assessments, USDA seems most focused on preventing a BSE epidemic. A look at the past year shows that just one case—even the suspicion of a case—can throw the cattle markets into a tailspin. One single, non-native occurrence of BSE in the United States resulted in dozens of export markets closing to U.S. cattle producers. The economic and psychological impact of BSE needs to factor into USDA's analysis. Cattlemen need to be able to trust their markets, and consumers need to be able to trust their food.

If exports to Japan have not resumed by March, then Montana ranchers will be in the unacceptable position of hav-

ing to compete domestically against Canadian beef flowing through three Montana ports without having the option of exporting our products to other markets. In fact, given concerns already expressed by key export markets about Canadian beef, the decision to allow expanded Canadian imports could prevent those same markets from accepting U.S. beef. I cannot accept this outcome.

I have often said that I support free trade, as long as it is fair trade. Right now, the situation facing Montana cattle producers is anything but fair. I urge USDA to reconsider some of the provisions of this regulation, to ensure that Canadian beef coming into the U.S. does not adversely impact the domestic cattle industry. There must be independent assessments of Canada's enforcement of its food ban. The 30-month limitation on beef and beef products deserves another look. Like many folks back home, I am anxious for the Japanese market to reopen and do not want anything to stand in the way. We must do what's right for the U.S. cattle industry first.

OBSTRUCTION OF BIPARTISAN COPYRIGHT BILLS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in the waning days, weeks and months of the 108th Congress, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle were working hard to pass important bipartisan legislation that would have protected America's innovators and artists, made more spectrum available for broadband services, enhanced 911 services, and fixed a technical glitch that was threatening the Universal Service Fund. Unfortunately, others were apparently working just as hard to obstruct these measures. This obstruction was intended only to force the Senate into passing legislation that everyone knew was doomed in the House. It was a flawed plan that was destined to fail. And fail it did, but not before it also prevented enactment of critically important and bipartisan intellectual property legislation.

The Family Entertainment and Copyright Act will go down as a victim of this obstructionism. This was an uncontroversial intellectual property bill that would have protected the rights of those who lead the United States' intellectual property industry. That industry makes the United States the global leader in innovation, and it deserves our support. Protecting these individuals from the theft of their work appeared to mean little to some of my colleagues. A Republican plan to hijack this important legislation, which lasted until the very last moment of the 108th Congress, ensured that it would not pass in time for the House to take it up and pass it. They succeeded in preventing the bicameral passage of the most important intellectual property legislation before the Congress this year. This was wrong.

The Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2004 contained impor-

tant and uncontroversial measures. The ART Act, a bill that passed the Judiciary Committee and then the full Senate by unanimous consent, would have provided new tools in the fight against bootleg copies of movies snatched from the big screen by camcorders smuggled into theaters. And it would have adopted a creative solution developed by the Copyright Office to address the growing problem of piracy of pre-release works. The Film Preservation Act would have helped ensure that the Library of Congress is able to continue its important work in archiving our nation's fading film heritage. Some of America's oldest films—works that document who we were as a people in the beginning of the 20th Century—are literally disintegrating faster than they can be saved. The Preservation of Orphan Works bill would have allowed greater access to certain works in the last years of their copyright term. The Fraudulent Online Identity Sanctions Act would have protected against online trademark infringement by prohibiting the use of fraudulent Internet addresses to commit such infringement. Finally, FECA would have clarified that services allowing home viewers of prerecorded movies to skip objectionable content does not violate the copyright laws. Obstructionism from certain Republicans has ensured that all of these problems are left unresolved by the 108th Congress.

Thankfully, two provisions of this bill were able to pass as stand alone bills. Thanks to the hard work of Senator BIDEN, the House version of critical anti-counterfeiting legislation passed. Unfortunately, additional language on which Senator BIDEN worked tirelessly was passed too late for House action. Again, the Republican obstruction was at work and to blame. The Cooperative Research and Technology Enhancement Act also passed both houses, largely because a Senate version had passed earlier in the year, and the Republican obstructionists in the Senate could not subvert that bill.

There is other legislation that has fallen to this ill-conceived plan to hijack popular legislation. The bipartisan Junk Fax bill would have protected both consumers and many industries, by placing reasonable limits on senders of unsolicited faxes. That bill, too, was passed too late for House action on account of the Republican roadblock.

Thankfully, at the last minute, another important and bipartisan piece of legislation was allowed through the roadblock. The telecommunications package contained critically important provisions that will enhance 911 service, allow spectrum reallocation, and preserve the ability of the Universal Service Fund to do its important work. These are not controversial or partisan provisions. E911 will ensure that first responders can provide an essential public service. The spectrum reallocation trust fund will free more space for

wireless broadband services. This will help the American economy by promoting jobs and education. The Universal Service Fund provision will fix an accounting glitch that if left unattended will seriously impede the USF as it goes about its critical work. Again, these uncontroversial provisions were held up and almost failed because of this obstructionism.

All of these bills were hijacked and sidetracked, in order to coerce the passage of a bill that everyone knew would not pass the House. I am thankful that the telecommunications legislation was eventually able to pass, but what does it mean that the telecommunications bill became law, while the intellectual property bill is left unfinished? It seems those responsible for this obstruction do not take the needs of America's innovative leaders very seriously. That attitude will undermine the American economy, and threaten America's leadership in the creative industries. So, because of this Republican roadblock, America's innovators and artists will have to struggle through more uncertainty, without the tools they need to defend their rights. That is a shame.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE NORTHERN STATE MARCHING WOLVES

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I publicly congratulate the Northern State University Marching Wolves on being selected to march in the Presidential Inaugural Parade on January 20, 2005. Northern State University has been an integral part of Aberdeen, SD, for the past century. The Marching Wolves were founded by Harvey Moen in 1941 and have represented Northern State University well for the past six decades. Today they are led by Dr. Alan LaFave, the Director of Bands at Northern State University, and Mr. Boyd Perkins, the Director of the Marching Wolves.

The tradition of the Inaugural Parade is as old as the office of the President; as George Washington traveled from Mount Vernon to New York for his swearing in, militia members began to walk behind him, joined by government officials and Members of Congress once he arrived in New York on April 30, 1789. In 1801 Thomas Jefferson was the first President to be Inaugurated in Washington, DC, and Members of Congress and citizens walked with him from the Capitol to the White House to music played by the Marine Band. The Marine Band has played in the Inaugural Parade every year since.

Though this will be the first time the Marching Wolves will participate in the Inaugural Parade, they have performed previously at professional football games and regional marching band competitions. The band is comprised of 125-130 students, making it one of the largest student groups at Northern

State University. They rehearse daily during football season, and their members show great dedication to this remarkable organization. The band rehearses 5 days a week for an hour and a half during the fall semester. In order to prepare for the parade, they will be practicing an additional 3 days and 2 nights before the spring semester begins. The Marching Wolves have a great tradition of leadership within their band which has served them well.

It is an honor to be chosen to perform in the Presidential Inaugural Parade, and I am proud to have the Northern State University Marching Wolves representing South Dakota. It is no surprise that an organization with the passion and dedication of the Marching Wolves was chosen for this privilege. It is with great honor that I share this impressive accomplishment with my colleagues.●

RECOGNITION OF COLORADO'S PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Robert von Dassanowsky and Carl Wieman for being selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement of Support Education as this year's U.S. Professors of the Year.

Robert von Dassanowsky, Ph.D., is associate professor and chair of Languages and Cultures and director of Film Studies at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. A widely published literary and film historian, Dr. Dassanowsky is founding VP of the Austrian American Film Association, which promotes scholarly and production activities between the two nations.

Carl Wieman, Ph.D., is a physicist at the University of Colorado at Boulder. In 2001, Dr. Wieman was honored with the Nobel Prize in Physics. He gives approximately 60 talks a year on the topic of physics research and science education.

This recognition represents the culmination of a great deal of hard work and determined effort. It acknowledges their dedication to teaching and commitment to students. They should be very proud of this honor.

Now more than ever, our Nation needs the skills and talents of college professors like Robert von Dassanowsky and Carl Wieman. They understand the importance of a well-rounded college education for students if we are to produce the next generation of leaders. We are very grateful for all they do to make a difference. Their effort is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations again to two of Colorado's outstanding citizens.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, a report concurring with the Congress in the designation of two provisions totaling \$100 million provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2005; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to Public Law 106-256, the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, a report and statement of proposals prepared by the Council on Environmental Quality in response to the Commission on Ocean Policy's final recommendations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3. A communication from the Director of the Federal Register, National Archives, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Certificates of Ascertainment of the electors of the President and Vice President of the United States; ordered to lie on the table.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 1. A resolution informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 2. A resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 3. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID,

Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE,

Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 4. A resolution expressing the sympathy and pledging the support of the United States Senate and the people of the United States for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, and other areas of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa, on December 26, 2004; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. LOTT):

S. Con. Res. 1. A concurrent resolution to provide for the counting on January 6, 2005, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. DODD):

S. Con. Res. 2. A concurrent resolution to extend the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the provisions of S. Con. Res. 93 and S. Con. Res. 94 of the One Hundred Eighth Congress; considered and agreed to.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 1—INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 1

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

SENATE RESOLUTION 2—INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

SENATE RESOLUTION 3—FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 3

Resolved, That the hour of daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

SENATE RESOLUTION 4—EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY AND PLEDGING THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE AND DEVASTATING TSUNAMI THAT STRUCK BANGLADESH, BURMA, INDIA, INDONESIA, KENYA, MALAYSIA, THE MALDIVES, THE SEYCHELLES, SOMALIA, SRI LANKA, TANZANIA, THAILAND, AND OTHER AREAS OF SOUTH ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND AFRICA, ON DECEMBER 26, 2004

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 4

Whereas on December 26, 2004, a tremendous earthquake, registered at 9.0 on the Richter scale and centered 100 miles off the coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered a deadly tsunami that swept throughout the Indian Ocean and beyond, devastating cities, towns, and communities, and killing or injuring persons in Southeast Asia and South Asia, through the island nations of the region, to Eastern Africa;

Whereas, as a result of the earthquake and ensuing tsunami, more than 140,000 people have lost their lives to date, tens of thousands of people are injured or missing, and the final death toll could climb into the hundreds of thousands;

Whereas the victims also include thousands of nationals who were visiting the region when the tsunami hit, including significant numbers from Europe and North and South America;

Whereas millions of people throughout Southeast Asia and South Asia have been left without food, shelter, or clean water, and now face deadly diseases such as cholera, dengue fever, dysentery, malaria, and typhoid;

Whereas thousands of children have been killed or injured by this disaster;

Whereas, as a result of this tragedy, thousands of children have been separated from their families or orphaned and are in need of re-unification or adoption;

Whereas whole coastal communities and cities throughout the region were obliterated;

Whereas recovery, reconstruction, and clean-up of the devastated areas likely will take years, billions of dollars, and the concerted leadership of the United States working together with the international community;

Whereas the people of the United States immediately responded and expressed their sympathy and concern by sending financial aid and other assistance currently totaling more than \$100,000,000, through nongovernmental organizations and other means, to the victims of this disaster, and by offering to volunteer in the disaster rescue, recovery, and rebuilding;

Whereas soon after the earthquake and tsunami hit the region, the United States Government expressed its condolences and invoked six disaster declarations for the nations hardest hit by this natural disaster, thus triggering the release of emergency funding to these countries;

Whereas less than 24 hours after these tragedies became known, the United States announced an initial pledge of \$15,000,000 for emergency humanitarian assistance, which was increased to \$35,000,000 in the following days as the scope of the tragedy unfolded;

Whereas President George W. Bush also dispatched more than 20 United States military cargo and patrol aircraft, redirected a Marine expeditionary unit and a carrier task force, and deployed several hundred United States military personnel to the region to assist with the disaster response, recovery, and delivery of relief supplies;

Whereas, in response to an early appeal by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for \$7,500,000, the United States provided \$4,000,000 for the distribution of emergency shelter materials and other relief commodities, and provided more than 3,000 metric tons of rice to the United Nations World Food Program for use in the affected region;

Whereas President George W. Bush has established a regional core group with Australia, Canada, India, Japan, and the Netherlands, with the United Nations, to help coordinate relief efforts, and sent a senior delegation of experts, led by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Florida Governor Jeb Bush, to meet with regional leaders and international organizations to assess what additional aid can be provided by the United States;

Whereas on December 31, 2004, President Bush increased the United States pledge to \$350,000,000 in aid and stated that the United States' contributions to disaster relief and recovery "will continue to be revised as the

full effects of this terrible tragedy become clearer”;

Whereas pledges of assistance from all international organizations, multilateral development banks, and governments, including the United States, now exceed \$2,000,000,000; and

Whereas, on January 3, 2005, the President appointed former Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton to lead a nationwide charitable fund-raising effort to elicit greater relief and assistance to the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck cities, towns, and communities throughout Southeast Asia, South Asia, Eastern Africa, and the region on December 26, 2004;

(2) conveys its most sincere condolences to the families, communities, and governments of the more than 140,000 people that lost their lives in this terrible natural disaster;

(3) expresses its gratitude and respect for the courageous and committed work of all aid and relief personnel, including United States military personnel, who are saving lives and providing relief assistance in the devastated areas of the region;

(4) supports President George W. Bush's pledge of \$350,000,000 in direct financial assistance, and tens of millions of dollars in additional indirect assistance through the dispatch of United States military aircraft, naval vessels, and personnel, and through the United States Government's substantial voluntary and annual contributions to international organizations and bodies;

(5) commends the ongoing international relief effort that includes the work of individual countries, numerous international organizations, and various relief and other nongovernmental entities;

(6) reaffirms that the United States Government is committed to providing relief and assistance in the most effective and efficient means possible, and will continue to assess, anticipate, and provide further assistance as needed in the weeks and months ahead;

(7) recognizes that the support of the United States Government will be greatly supplemented by private donations and as-

sistance from thousands of United States citizens, charitable organizations, religious groups, and corporations that routinely provide generous and significant amounts of aid, support, and volunteers; and

(8) fully supports the long-term commitment and engagement of the United States to provide financial aid and other forms of direct and indirect assistance to the countries and peoples of the region impacted by the powerful earthquake and the devastating tsunami.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1—TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING ON JANUARY 6, 2005, OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, the sixth day of January 2005, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter “A”; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall

be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2—TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES AND THE PROVISIONS OF S. CON. RES. 93 AND S. CON. RES. 94 OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 2

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That effective from January 3, 2005, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 94 (108th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration, is hereby continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. Effective from January 4, 2005, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 93 (108th Congress), to authorize the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mike Catanzaro be granted the privilege of the floor for this day.

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

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CORRECTIONS TO CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), AMENDED FROM 3RD QUARTER, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Sid Ashworth:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Jim Morhard:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Charlie Houy:									
China	Yuan		831.00						831.00
United States	Dollar				2,549.30				2,549.30
Betsy Schmid:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91

CORRECTIONS TO CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), AMENDED FROM 3RD QUARTER, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
DeLynn Henry:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Mimi Braniff:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Kay Webber:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Karina Waller:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Suzanne Palmer:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Jennifer Mies Lowe:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
George Lowe:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Marsha Lefkovits:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Richard Quick:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Joe Maupin:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Senator Ted Stevens:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Senator Thad Cochran:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Senator Daniel Inouye:									
China	Yuan		831.00						831.00
United States	Dollar				2,549.30				2,549.30
Senator Pat Roberts:									
China	Yuan		831.00						831.00
United States	Dollar				2,523.00				2,523.00
Senator E. Benjamin Nelson:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Senator Bill Frist:									
China	Yuan		1,008.00						1,008.00
Julia Hart:									
China	Yuan		1,108.00						1,108.00
United States	Dollar				3,316.80				3,316.80
Mark Esper:									
China	Yuan		1,048.00						1,048.00
Senator Ernest F. Hollings:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Robert Stevenson:									
China	Yuan		1,108.00						1,108.00
United States	Dollar				3,316.80				3,316.80
Senator Jeff Bingaman:									
China	Yuan		1,108.00						1,108.00
United States	Dollar				3,754.68				3,754.68
Total			63,031.88		18,009.88				81,041.76

TED STEVENS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Nov. 15, 2004.

CORRECTIONS TO CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Shelby:									
Guatemala	Dollar		630.00						630.00
Honduras	Dollar		440.00						440.00
El Salvador	Dollar		123.00						123.00
Nicaragua	Dollar		440.00						440.00
Costa Rica	Dollar		440.00						440.00
New Zealand	Dollar		300.00						300.00
Australia	Dollar		1,490.00						1,490.00
Thailand	Baht		928.00						928.00
Bhutan	Ngultrum		292.00		718.00				1,010.00
India	Rupee		221.00						221.00
Germany	Euro		358.00						358.00
Kathleen L. Casey:									
Guatemala	Dollar		530.00						530.00
Honduras	Dollar		350.00						350.00
El Salvador	Dollar		106.00						106.00
Nicaragua	Dollar		383.00						383.00
Costa Rica	Dollar		420.00						420.00
New Zealand	Dollar		300.00						300.00
Australia	Dollar		1,490.00						1,490.00
Thailand	Baht		928.00						928.00
Bhutan	Ngultrum		292.00		718.00				1,010.00
India	Rupee		221.00						221.00
Germany	Euro		358.00						358.00
Randel L. Zeller:									
Nigeria	Naira		240.00						240.00
Angola	Dollar		184.00						184.00
Cameroon	Dollar		303.00						303.00
United States	Dollar				5,399.76				5,399.76
Anne Caldwell:									
New Zealand	Dollar		300.00						300.00
Australia	Dollar		1,490.00						1,490.00
Thailand	Baht		696.00						696.00
United States	Dollar				3,970.80				3,970.80
Victoria Cox:									
New Zealand	Dollar		300.00						300.00
Australia	Dollar		1,490.00						1,490.00
Thailand	Baht		696.00						696.00
United States	Dollar				3,970.80				3,970.00
Gregory J. Dean:									
China	Renminbi		1,308.00		914.00				2,222.00
United States	Dollar				6,306.50				6,306.50
Total			18,047.00		21,997.86				40,044.86

RICHARD SHELBY,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Sept. 24, 2004.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Don Nickles:									
United States	Dollar				8,721.96				8,721.96
Qatar	Dollar		628.00						628.00
Pakistan	Dollar		585.00						585.00
Roy Phillips:									
United States	Dollar				8,721.96				8,721.96
Qatar	Dollar		629.00						629.00
Pakistan	Dollar		568.00						568.00
Roy Phillips:									
United States	Dollar				4,962.14				4,962.14
Germany	Euro		156.00		55.00				211.00
Romania	Lei		121.00						121.00
Bulgaria	Lev		205.00						205.00
Turkey	Dollar		73.00						73.00
Italy	Dollar		85.00		55.00		85.00		225.00
Total			3,050.00		22,516.06		85.00		25,651.06

DON NICKLES,
Chairman, Committee on Budget, Sept. 22, 2004.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Edwards:	Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	5,607.46	.....	.....	.....	5,607.46
Donald Mitchell:	Dollar .....	.....	348.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	348.00
Derek Chollet:	Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	5,700.64	.....	.....	.....	5,700.64
	Dollar .....	.....	365.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	365.00
	Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	5,700.64	.....	.....	.....	5,700.64
Total .....	.....	.....	713.00	.....	17,008.74	.....	.....	.....	17,721.74

PAT ROBERTS,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Aug. 10, 2004.

CORRECTIONS TO CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), CODEL FRIST FOR TRAVEL FROM JUNE 3 TO JUNE 6, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Bill Frist:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
Senator Robert Bennett:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		575.00						575.00
Senator John Ensign:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
William Pickle:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
Mark Esper:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
Bob Stevenson:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		746.00						746.00
George Tolbert:									
Kuwait	Dollar		364.00						364.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
Sally Walsh:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		700.00						700.00
Delegation Expenses*:									
Kuwait	Dollar						2,938.44		2,938.44
Iraq	Dollar						684.15		684.15
France	Euro						40,584.40		40,584.40
Total			8,143.00				44,206.99		52,349.99

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State, and the Department of Defense under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

BILL FRIST,
Majority Leader, Sept. 8, 2004.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Randy Massanelli:									
Jordan	Dinar		208.20						208.20
Germany	Dollar		43.95						43.95
Total			252.15						252.15

TOM DASCHLE,
Democratic Leader, Sept. 21, 2004.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2004.

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tom Daschle:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Senator Joe Biden:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Denis McDonough:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Rich Verma:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Alex Jarvis:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Anthony Blinken:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Puneet Talwar:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Delegation Expenses*:									
Kuwait	Dollar						2,726.94		2,726.94
Total			2,752.00				2,726.94		5,478.94

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384 and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

TOM DASCHLE,
Democratic Leader, Sept. 23, 2004.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
JANUARY 6, 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it

stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 6. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of pro-

ceedings be approved to date, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Thursday morning the Senate will be in morning business, and at 12:50 p.m. the Senate will proceed as a body to the House of Representatives for a joint session for the counting of electoral votes. Members should gather in the Senate Chamber at 12:40 so that we may leave promptly at 12:50.

During Thursday's session, we expect to act on the committee resolution.

Members are wondering about rollcall votes for the week. At this point, it is unclear, but we will notify all Members if a rollcall vote is possible before we finish our business this week.

Following close of business on Thursday, the Senate will adjourn until January 20.

I inform my colleagues that when the Senate reconvenes January 20, we will immediately begin work on the President's nominations.

I will simply close by saying that we have had a remarkable day today. Six hours ago we began the swearing in of 34 Senators. It is always a moving time to have family, friends, spouses, and constituents from so many different States coming to Washington, DC, to share in an occasion that we all remember—indelibly printed on our

minds—when we put our right hand in the air and took that oath to this body and to that Constitution. It has been a remarkable day for people. It has been a great pleasure for us in leadership to be able to participate really on the periphery as we celebrate with each and every one of them for their great public service.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2005, AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:53 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 6, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate January 4, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MIKE JOHANN, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, VICE ANN MARGARET VENEMAN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CARLOS M. GUTIERREZ, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE DONALD LOUIS EVANS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SAMUEL W. BODMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE SPENCER ABRAHAM, RESIGNED.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ALBERT HENRY KONETZNI, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2009, VICE RICHARD A. MESERVE, RESIGNED.

GREGORY B. JACZKO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2008, VICE GRETA JOY DICUS, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT, OF UTAH, TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE TOMMY G. THOMPSON, RESIGNED.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

JEFFREY ROBERT BROWN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, VICE BRADLEY D. BELT, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONDOLEEZZA RICE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE, VICE COLIN LUTHER POWELL, RESIGNED.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

ADOLFO A. FRANCO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2008, VICE JEFFREY DAVIDOW, RESIGNED.

ROGER FRANCISCO NORIEGA, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2006, VICE HARRIET C. BABBITT, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MARGARET SPELLINGS, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, VICE RODERICK R. PAIGE, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALBERTO R. GONZALES, OF TEXAS, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JOHN ASHCROFT, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JIM NICHOLSON, OF COLORADO, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE ANTHONY JOSEPH PRINCIPI, RESIGNED.