nation. Her political savvy and integrity brought professional respect, as well as outstanding accomplishment. The great courage of her final year has been cited as she fought and a death with courage, peace and encouragement for others. Not only at death’s door was courage so evident. Her professional standards and personal values demanded courage and confidence and determination in reaching the goals she set for herself.

Mollie recognized the importance of maintaining a strong, healthy persona—physically, mentally and spiritually—not a selfish concern for her ego, but the pragmatic acceptance that thus only could she give the most that she could and not that which only she could know and cret, transmundane reality, some mystic while looking directly at you, she would exposed to it. Yet there were occasions when, demanded attention and got it. Hard to de- or command, but a presence that, of itself, been blessed by it.

I cannot recall how many holds—It was like a rabbit trail. You could not keep up with it fast enough. Once we attempted to clear them, one hold would go on, someone would attempt to remove the hold, and, bingo, it is back on. My good friend from Utah, Senator BENNETT, spent endless hours trying to remove the contract and was not a tenant of the whole process. It has to stop. I know the leadership feels that way. The Members are going to have to recognize a few realities. Over the past several months, I have been working with my House counterparts to put together a package in conference on the Presidio bill. It has virtually everything in it. Everybody is not going to like everything in it, but there is virtually something in it for everybody. It is not an attempt to abuse the whole process. It has to stop. I know the leadership feels that way. The Members are going to have to recognize a few realities. Over the past several months, I have been working with my House counterparts to put together a package in conference on the Presidio bill. It has virtually everything in it. Everybody is not going to like everything in it, but there is virtually something in it for everybody. It is not an attempt to abuse the whole process. It has to stop. I know the leadership feels that way. The Members are going to have to recognize a few realities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

BLANKET HOLDS ON ENERGY COMMITTEE BILLS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I rise today to in- form my colleagues of my degree of frustration with the gridlock that has occurred this entire Congress prevent- ventially virtually every bill reported by my committee, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. As chairman of that committee, I obviously have the obligation of moving the bills out. I have at- tempted to do that.

I think it was the night before last, Mr. President, that the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, expressed similar frustration over an objection from this side of the aisle to a judicial nominee. You can imagine my frustration when a few Senators from the Democratic side have prevented passage of all 72 bills from my committee currently pending on the calendar. Those objections, Mr. President, were not based on the merits of the bills being held; they were based on the problem with another bill. So we have this chain of “you are not going to support my bill unless your bill passes.”

I think it is fair to note that during part of the last year and a half, all of my committee bills were being held not because of a gridlock by the Democra- mate or my committee, but the excuse was the House was not acting quickly enough on some matter of interest.

There are many, many items that are very important to Senators. I want to get them cleared and get them out. For example, Sterling Forest, my good friend Senator D’AMATO has been urging me, clear Sterling Forest. The New York Times has taken up the charge. I certainly want to get the Sterling Forest cleared. I want to support the position of my friend, Senator D’AMATO from New York, who re- sponded to the editorial of the New York Times as it affects New Jersey, as it affects the Sterling Forest. We attempted to make it clear that, along with the Utah ski bill, and a couple of small native items for Alaska.

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