

Col. Michael P. Wiedemer, 0000  
Col. Michael W. Woolley, 0000  
Col. Bruce A. Wright, 0000

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the Senate will return to legislative session.

### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1997

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 22. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and the Senate then immediately resume consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 27, the first concurrent budget resolution.

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

### PROGRAM

Mr. STEVENS. For the information of all Senators, at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning the Senate will resume consideration of the budget resolution with Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN being recognized to conclude debate on her amendment. There is one hour total for debate. Therefore, a rollcall is expected at approximately 10:30, or somewhere between 10:30 and 11 a.m., on Thursday in relation to the Moseley-Braun amendment.

In addition, a number of amendments still remain to the budget resolution. Therefore, Senators should expect votes throughout the day and into the night in order to complete action on the budget resolution.

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution. Mr. ROBB addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ROBB. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to file an amendment at the desk.

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

#### AMENDMENT NO. 356

(Purpose: To express the Sense of the Senate on Social Security and retirement saving)

Mr. ROBB. I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] proposes an amendment numbered 356.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

#### SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT SAVING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) Payroll taxes provide the basic funding source for Social Security, the most popular and successful government program in reducing the rate of poverty among the elderly;

(2) For a majority of Americans, the payroll tax burden imposed for Social Security is now greater than the income tax burden, making it difficult for many families to invest for their own retirement;

(3) Payroll taxes collected for Social Security currently exceed the amount necessary to fund Social Security benefits;

(4) Excess Social Security revenues finance current consumption rather than being saved and invested for the benefit of today's employees, denying them an opportunity to share in the benefits of the increasing value of capital in a global economy;

(5) Increased personal savings is necessary to provide secure retirements and enhance future productivity and economic growth;

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions of this Resolution assume that—

(1) The Senate will consider using the amounts currently reserved for tax cuts for the individuals to use a portion of their Social Security payroll tax contribution for personal retirement accounts.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, was this cleared with the Budget Committee to make it eligible this evening? It is being filed, but it qualifies now under the budget resolution. I have no objection if that is the case.

Mr. ROBB. Yes, Mr. President, that is the case.

I yield the floor.

### TRIBUTE TO BARBARA ANDREWS-MEE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, we are fortunate when our working associates are knowledgeable, efficient, responsible and willing to go the extra mile.

But none of those attributes mean much over the long haul until you add loyalty to the mix.

For half of my life—and two-thirds of hers—Barbara Andrews-Mee has been my boss—as a lawyer, a member of our state legislature and as a U.S. Senator.

Her talents are many. But, when I've been asked, "What is Barb's best characteristic?" I say, "loyalty."

That means more to me than any of the help she's given me and the people of Alaska over more than three decades: work above and beyond the call of duty.

Through our 36 years of working together, Barb has solved problems for countless Alaskans.

She's been to hundreds—maybe even thousands—of meetings of civic and community groups to keep her finger on the pulse, to help keep me informed.

A tireless supporter of our military men and women, she has attended ceremonies on bases and posts, on submarines and on her own ship, the U.S.S. *Zephyr*, a PC8 coastal patrol craft, which she christened.

Barb has watched parades and air shows and presentations of colors and

speeches of all types, and worked to ensure that military people who serve in Alaska are treated with respect as our neighbors and constituents.

Barb, can on request, put a file in my hand that is sometimes decades old. She can always locate them.

She's been the institutional memory for the young Alaskans who come to work with us, fresh out of school.

And, after they've served on the Senate payroll and move on, they come back to see Barb.

My grandmother always told me, "Just remember, dynamite comes in small packages."

That's Barb.

She knows when to use her Norwegian stubbornness or her Alaskan toughness to get a job done.

She also knows how to set me straight, and has done it many times.

Many a morning Barb has risen long before dawn, or many a dark night, well after others in Anchorage have gone to bed, she has traveled to Elmendorf Air Force Base to greet, in my name, dignitaries whose planes are making a brief stopover.

She gives our visitors an Alaskan gift package—some smoked salmon, crackers, and candy. And every time afterward, the visitors say, "Remember me to Barb."

She's met my planes every hour of the day and night when I come home.

And she's made sure I made my flights back to Washington, DC, no matter how tight the time frame, possibly testing the speed limits along the way, but always getting me there.

One year I came home 36 times. She met me every time but one. When I got there that night, having left the Senate at 4 p.m., battled traffic and got the 5:30 plane and arrived in Anchorage about 11:30 p.m., there was no one there.

I waited, then called Barb. "What's up?" I said to my sleepy friend. "What's my schedule?"

"You aren't here, chief," Barb said. "I won't tell anyone you're here if you won't tell anyone I'm not there!"

I went fishing and then went back to DC.

We've shared much more than a working relationship through the years, Mr. President. Barb's friendship has meant much to me and my family.

In our worst days, when I lost my wife Ann who was Barb's good friend, Barb did everything possible to ease our pain, despite her own sense of loss.

Barb's quick with the quip, and usually has a great joke to share when it looks like our spirits are low.

Along with her job, and her sons, her daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, and her husband, Vince, Barb has another special love.

It's golf.

The snow has hardly disappeared from our Alaska golf courses before Barb is on the links.

With Vince, she packs up her clubs and heads for sunny climes whenever there's an opportunity.

Like everything else she's worked on, Barb continues to perfect her golf game.

We may not see her on the L.P.G.A. circuit, but she's going to give those other lady golfers a run for their money.

Mr. President, it's impossible to sum up 36 years of association in one small tribute.

Mike Doogan, a columnist for the Anchorage Daily News, in a farewell column about Barb's years with us, quoted her as saying, "It's been a great ride."

You bet it has.

But more than all of her other great attributes, Barb's loyalty has sustained me, comforted me, inspired me, and helped me to overcome tough situations.

She may not be coming into my Anchorage office every day, anymore. She may be soaking up sunshine at her Arizona getaway, or on a Hawaiian Island or a Florida Key.

But no matter where Barb is, she knows she can count on me to be her friend for all time.

There is no way to thank Barb, Mr. President. The words "Thank you" are too small to convey the depth and breadth and length of the gratitude I have for all of the wonderful years Barb Andrews-Mee has shared with me, with my family, and with Alaskans.

We'll miss our day-to-day contact, but we'll always know we have a loyal friend.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD Mike Doogan's Anchorage Daily News column of Sunday, May 18.

The column follows:

[From the Anchorage Daily News, May 18, 1997]

ANDREWS-MEE LEAVES 'EM LAUGHING, AND GRATEFUL AFTER 35 YEARS

(By Mike Doogan)

You have to say this for Barbara Andrews-Mee: She's no quitter. She's worked for the same fellow for 35 years.

"I have been with Ted Stevens longer than I have been with three husbands," she said last week with a characteristic laugh. "It's been a great ride."

The ride end this month, when Andrews-Mee retires as manager of U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens' Anchorage office.

Resplendent in a red plaid blazer, Andrews-Mee sat in Stevens' big office in the federal building and talked about her time with Alaska's senator-for-life. Her own office, next door, was stacked with files she's trying to clean out. Her desk, which once belonged to Stevens' predecessor, Bob Bartlett, was a jumble of notes and letters. Propped atop a filing cabinet was a big, black-and-white photo of a younger Stevens, looking like his dog had just died, with a hand-lettered caption that read: Whoever said it would be easy?

Maybe it hasn't all been easy, but for Andrews-Mee it seems to have been fun. The woman is a pistol. Here's just a sample:

On her height (she's 5 feet tall): "I tell people used to be 6-foot-2, and then I went to work for Stevens."

On her age (she's 59): "Jeez, that's hell, when you to have to admit your kid's going to turn 40."

On why she never ran for office herself: "Oh, no, my skin is too thick. Like the fellow who goes to a football game and when they go into a huddle, he thinks they're talking about him?"

On the fancy new computer she has at home: "We've got the whole thing. Don't get off at Chicago if you're going to New York."

On her plans for retirement: "My god, I am my mother. You know how you just become your parents? My mother was a holy terror 89 when she died and still dying her hair red. I'm not going to sit home and watch soaps."

Instead, she said, she's going to play golf—she's still trying to break 100—serve on the Defense Advisory Commission on Women in the Services, and do volunteer work.

"It's payback time," she said, "my country and my state and my community."

Andrews-Mee went to work for Stevens when he was just another lawyer with political ambitions. He was first elected to the state Legislature in 1962, before there was the oil money to pay legislative staff.

"In those days, Ted would find somebody going to Anchorage and give them three, four Dictaphone belts, and I'd type them up and send them back," she said. "And that's how we did legislative mail."

Stevens' political success since then owes a lot to Andrews-Mee. His office has a long-standing reputation for solving constituents' problems, whether or not the constituent is a Stevens supporter.

"When somebody tells me, 'I voted for Ted,' I say, 'That great, but we represent everybody,'" she said.

That attitude is a big part of the reason so many Democrats enter the voting booth every six years and quietly cast a ballot for the Republican. One way or another, Andrews-Mee has made her boss a lot of friends.

So it seems appropriate, out of respect for the job she's done, to let Andrews-Mee say she's been happy to do that for Stevens, to let her sneak in one last plug for her boss.

"He's done a great job," she said. "Why else would I stay with somebody for 35 years."

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment following the remarks of the Senator from North Dakota.

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

The Senator from North Dakota.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair. I especially thank the Chair for his courtesy of remaining behind to listen as I present my remarks on the budget agreement. I apologize to him because I have been seeking to do this as we have gone through the afternoon and evening. But other business intervened, and it was in the best interest of the body that we allow those amendments to be taken up and considered. But I do appreciate the Chair's indulgence.

Mr. President, as a Member of the Finance and Budget Committees, I rise to support the budget agreement. I believe it is a modest step—I want to emphasize "modest"—step in the right direction. Before I discuss its provisions I would like to remind my colleagues

of why we are in a position to consider such a budget agreement. We are here because Democrats made very tough choices in 1993. In 1993, we were in the majority and we had the burden of coming up with a budget resolution. We made a series of decisions, including the need to move toward a balanced budget and to do it as quickly as possible. And as a result of that agreement, the deficit has been reduced and reduced dramatically. I remind my colleagues that in 1992 the deficit was \$290 billion. This year CBO is now telling us the deficit will be \$67 billion, a 77 percent reduction.

If we look at the deficit in a different way, as a percentage of the size of our economy, we can see that the deficit has also declined even more dramatically. In this case, we look at the deficit in terms of a percentage of our gross domestic product, or the size of our national economy, and we can see that we have gone from a deficit of just under 5 percent to a deficit of just under 1 percent.

These reductions in the deficit took pressure off interest rates and kicked off four years of strong economic growth. The results are that the United States economy has created 12 million new jobs since that 1993 budget deal. We are the biggest job generator in the industrialized world.

But the good news doesn't end there. Not only have we seen tremendous job generation in the United States and strong economic growth, but we have also seen remarkable results in terms of inflation. As you can see, inflation is now at its lowest level in 31 years. Inflation is now dramatically reduced in this country—we have an inflation rate of under three percent. Unemployment has similarly seen a dramatic decline. Unemployment is at its lowest level in 24 years. This chart shows what has happened to the unemployment rate. It indicates that we have got the lowest level since 1973; again dramatic economic results in part because of that 1993 budget agreement. That 1993 budget agreement cut spending, and also raised income taxes on the wealthiest one percent in this country.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle said if we passed that agreement it would increase unemployment, it would increase the deficit, and it would crater the economy. They were wrong. That economic plan has worked and worked remarkably well. Not only have we seen terrific results in terms of unemployment and inflation, look at what has happened to real business fixed investment. Real business fixed investment has been growing at an annual rate of 9 percent for the last four years.

You can see that since the 1993 agreement real business fixed investment has taken off. Not only do we see good results there—let's look at the misery index—we used to talk a lot about the misery index. That is the combined rate of unemployment and inflation. The misery index is now at its lowest