

which occurred before you were born is to remain always a child."

So history is repeating itself. I wonder why that is. God created water and other things in the beginning. He created water, H₂O—two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen. And it hasn't changed. It is still the same. It is still H₂O. It is still two parts of hydrogen and one part oxygen. Well, human nature hasn't changed either from the beginning. It changed through Abel. Abel's blood cried out from the ground. Human nature hasn't changed. We are still a slave of it.

So history seems to be repeating itself because human nature hasn't changed. Today, I urge my colleagues to study history; Stand firm. Do not give up your constitutional responsibility. Do not rise to the bait offered by those who accuse you of protectionism; the cause of freer and fairer trade is not served by Congress abdicating its power. Do not be fooled into thinking that no country will negotiate with the world's foremost economic power because of concern about how that country's legislative branch conducts its debates; the foolishness of that argument should be self-evident. And don't allow the threats, cajolements, incentives, rewards, punishments or imprecations that the administration may cast your way; don't allow these to sway your decision. I hope that the House will stiffen—stiffen its opposition to fast track. It is time to resist the executive's encroachments on the prerogatives of Congress. It is time, Mr. President, for Congress to throw off its cloak of humility and deference and reverence for the executive and to assert its rightful constitutional role in the regulation of commerce with foreign nations.

Mr. President, recent polls have illustrated how ill-informed most Americans are about their Constitution. Oh, they like it, all right, but few of them can accurately answer or debate the questions about it. Even fewer, I would posit, understand how well and how carefully the Constitution balances the powers given to the three branches of Government—a balance constructed by the Founding Fathers as a defense against the evils of one-man rule. Our Founding Fathers wanted to escape the tyranny that a king can impose over a subservient and subjugated people. And that is why our forefathers fought the American Revolution. That is why lives were risked, and that is why lives were lost. Our Founding Fathers knew that every President would be tempted to amass power to himself, and they hoped that the combined strength of the elected representatives in Congress could check those power grabs.

Of course, there were those at the Convention who were concerned about the thirst of the legislative branch for power and how it might encroach on the powers of the President. But they could not foresee the day when we would have political parties. They could not foresee the day when the

President of the United States would be the titular head of a political party; how he would command hundreds and thousands of patronage positions. They could not foresee the day when television would bring to the American people the news of the second—not the news of the minute, but the news of the second.

Isaiah, a great prophet, was right when he said:

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

And that is true. Isn't television exalting the valleys and making low the mountains and the hills? Isn't all flesh seeing the glory of the Lord together?

There came a time when the clock struck and we had the underocean cable, the wireless telegraph, the telephone, the diesel motor train, the airplane—all of these things. And by all of these things, radio and television, the printing press—by all of these things, then, the glory of the Lord has been revealed in all of the globe. And Isaiah's prophecy has come true.

So, our Founding Fathers could not possibly have foreseen the time when Americans would have these wonderful inventions. And when the President would have, at the snap of his finger, all of the media in that White House gather around his bully pulpit. They could not foresee these things.

For the most part, this system has worked. And I hope and pray that it will continue to work. Thus, I say to my colleagues in the House and here: Stand firm. Hold fast, and together let us oppose this fast track to nowhere.

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

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

SENATOR BYRD'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, on January 8, 1997, the Senate noted the beginning of Senator Robert C. BYRD's 51st year of public service to the people of West Virginia. On that occasion, I spoke of Senator BYRD's public record, of his service in both houses of the West Virginia State legislature, his service in both houses of the U.S. Congress, of the leadership positions he has held in the Senate, and of the remarkable seven consecutive terms to which he has been elected to represent the people of West Virginia as a U.S. Senator. I spoke of the public man, of the fascinating orator seen edifying Senators and C-SPAN audiences alike with

his grasp of history and his love of the Constitution and of this body.

On November 20, Senator BYRD will mark another, more personal, anniversary. On November 20, Senator BYRD will celebrate the completion of his 80th year of life. To celebrate this event, along with his current and many of his former staff members, I want to share with this body and the world some of our reflections on the personal man, the side of Senator BYRD we see, respect, and honor every day.

If the heart of West Virginia is made of coal—that rich, compressed carbon of long-ago life that breathes fire to warm our homes and light our dark nights—then Senator BYRD is a diamond honed over time to be its purest, clearest core. Years of experience and study have cut many facets in his character, each adding a distinctive sparkle.

ROBERT C. BYRD never forgets the people of West Virginia. He cares, deeply, about living up to the trust and confidence that has been placed in him and about setting the best possible example for others that he can in his own life and behavior. He is a tireless worker. Many of his staff members can tell stories about leaving him in his office late at night, still working, and dragging themselves wearily in the next morning, only to be greeted by his chipper, "Good morning." His energy and drive have not lessened over the years. When added to his own natural bent for self-improvement, this tendency can make him a challenging man to work for, but trying to live up to this challenge has made every member of his staff a better and more committed employee.

Senator BYRD speaks often about the old values—about the importance of hard work, the love of family, respect for authority, loyalty to community and country, and about reverence for the Creator. He does not say these things because he believes they are popular or engaging—he talks about them because he believes in them and because he lives by these values. He keeps a King James Bible on his desk and often refers to its passages, seeking ancient wisdom to guide him through the mire of convoluted political issues and diverse viewpoints.

Senator BYRD does not take anything or anyone for granted. Being a Senator and working in the Capitol building has lost none of its importance and none of its magic for Senator BYRD. Often, when the Sun is setting behind the Washington Monument, he will invite his staff to look out the window and down the Mall, so that moment—that special vantage point and that sunset—would not be taken for granted.

To travel with Senator BYRD in West Virginia is to see up-close the tremendous respect and esteem in which he is held. Yet, his stature as a national statesman has not created a chasm between him and those he serves. On the

contrary, all West Virginians feel as if they know him. And, not only do people feel they know him, many have a personal story to tell about him. They often comment on "the night he spent with our family," or when "he had dinner at our house," or when "he spoke at my commencement," or when "he helped my mother to get her widow's benefits after my dad died."

As he values each and every citizen of West Virginia, so does Senator BYRD value everyone who works for him—for themselves and for the job that they do for him and the people of West Virginia. He sets high standards, but he never asks more of anyone than he asks of himself. And, his drive is tempered by thoughtfulness.

He goes out of his way to smile, greet, and speak gently with everyone in his office. When personal or family tragedies strike, he is also there, offering support and encouragement, and living up to his belief that family must come first. Senator BYRD has seen members of his staff through cancer, the birth and death of children, the loss of parents, and all of life's best and worst experiences with characteristic kindness and understanding. In return, he has a loyal group of employees, who belie the common perception that staff turnover on Capitol Hill is frequent. His current staff combine for a total of over 4 centuries of experience in his service and in service to the Nation and the people of West Virginia, and his former staff remain close to him.

Working with Senator BYRD is an honor because he is a legendary figure even in his own time. He is larger than life, not only for the positions he has held and his accomplishments, but for his principles. On many occasions he has quoted Mark Twain: "Fame is vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings only one thing endures: character." He is a man of principle who is willing to stick to those principles, his experience, and his reason, with his eye always on the unforgiving pen of history and not on polls or interest group calls. He has taken some lonely stands, speaking candidly and thoughtfully about controversial nominations and treaties, and even calling for Senators to step down when their actions were detrimental to the institution of the Senate.

Senator BYRD's legacy to West Virginia is not one that will be measured solely in years of service, or in the number of offices held, or, even, as some might cynically suggest, in dollar signs. More than anyone or anything in memory, Robert C. BYRD has provided West Virginians with hope—hope of a better economy, hope that dreams of well-paying jobs and nice homes do not have to be hooked on the back of a bumper on a winding road leading out of State, hope that the way of life cherished among West Virginia's hills will survive and even flourish, to be passed on to future generations. He has made them feel proud—proud of their way of life, proud of their State and proud of

him. There is a difference in West Virginia today that can be attributed to a renewed feeling of hope and a sense of belief in the State that Senator BYRD has so unselfishly worked to fulfill.

As his 51st year of public service draws to a close, and the beginning of his 81st year dawns, we all offer our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the man we have been honored to work with, and to learn from. To follow in his example, let us close with a quote, this one from Alexander Pope (1688-1744) in a letter to Mr. Addison, that captures Senator BYRD's essence:

Statesman, yet friend of truth! Of soul sincere,

In action faithful, and in honour clear;

Who broke no promise, served no private end,

Who gained no title, and who lost no friend.

Working for Senator BYRD is an honor and a privilege of which every member of his staff is mindful each day, and it is a blessing for which each one will always be grateful. The sign of a truly great man is how, by the example of his own daily living, in and out of the public's view, he touches and changes everyone around him for the better. Through him, his staff becomes part of a great and living institution, dedicated like Senator BYRD to the service of the Nation and of the great State of West Virginia.

Today, I join Senator BYRD's staff in wishing him a happy 80th birthday and happy 51st year of public service.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of Senator BYRD's staff, many of whom contributed greatly to this birthday wish, be printed in the RECORD.

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

Ann Adler	Charles Kinney
James Allen	Carol Kiser
Neyla Arnas	Kevin Kiser
Alisa Bailey	Catherine Lark-
Suzanne Bailey	Preston
Mary Bainbridge	Angela Lee
Anne Barth	Kathleen Luelsdorff
Sue Bayliss	Rebecca Roberts-
Betsy Benitez	Malamis
Elizabeth Blevins	Sue Masica
Pat Braun	Martin McBroom
C. Richard D'Amato	Lane McIntosh
Dionne Davies	Martha Anne
Mary Dewald	McIntosh
Carol Dunn	Nora Martin
Joan Drummond	Joseph Meadows
Mary Edwards	Carol Mitchell
Glenn Elliott	Jennifer O'Keefe
James English	Nancy Peoples
Tina Evans	Richard Peters
Elias Gabriel	David Pratt
Carolyn Giolito	Barbara Redd
Patrick Griffin	Peter Rogoff
Scott Gudes	Terrance Sauvain
Kimberly Hatch	Melissa Wolford
Marilyn Hill	Shelk
Paulette Hodges	Mary Jane Small
Cynthia Huber	Elysa Smith
Susan Huber	Terri Smith
James Huggins	Leslie Staples
Gail John	Joe Stewart
Helen Kelly	Lesley Strauss
Peter Kiefhaber	Brenda Teutsch

Lisa Videnieks
Jacquie Watkins
Julie Watkins
Paul Weinberger
B.G. Wright

Gail Stanley
Scott Bunton
Lula Davis
Melvin Dubea
Tom Fliter

Mr. DASCHLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the quorum call is rescinded.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, morning business will be extended until 5:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Alabama, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 (Mr. ROBERTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask that I may proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE—CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, lately, a discussion has been undertaken about the question of civil rights. Some think civil rights means preferences, quotas, and set-asides; others say it principally means equality in the law. That has been a major bone of contention as we have considered the nomination of Bill Lann Lee, an able attorney, for the position of chief of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

We have had a lot of discussions about this question in recent years, and it is an important issue as this Senate considers that nomination. But there are other matters that come before the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. It is a great division; it has played a tremendous role in the changing of race relations in America and has helped break down legal and de facto desegregation throughout this country. It has a great staff of 250 lawyers.

But I think it is also a matter of significance and importance that the chief of the Civil Rights Division maintain clear and firm control and supervision over that Department. In recent years, as the situation in our Nation has changed, legal barriers to equality have been broken down, and actions by that Department have raised questions about the validity of their actions and whether or not the positions they are