

bonds between the "old-timers" are strong and newcomers can sometimes feel intimidated. Ultimately, I didn't take John Chafee's office, but I gladly accepted his friendship. When I last spoke to John, during a short conversation in this Chamber late last week, he talked about his son, Lincoln, and the possibility that son would replace father in the Senate. I think he took great pride in the thought of his family carrying on his tradition of public service.

I was moved by the words of John Chafee's staff in a statement they collectively issued on Monday. It said, in part: "His sense of public spirit was infectious, and we have all learned a great deal from him. But more important than any lesson in civics is the example he set for all of us about how to conduct our lives: listen to both sides; do what's right; always look for the good in people; and, even if you don't prevail, be of good cheer."

Mr. President, John was a tireless advocate for his constituents, a man who sought agreement in the often-acrimonious atmosphere of Washington, a man who brought meaning to the idea of giving one's word and standing by one's principles. And he was consistently of good cheer. I was proud to serve with him, and proud to consider him a friend.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of a dear friend and colleague, Senator John Chafee.

I was deeply saddened yesterday to hear of Senator Chafee's passing. The Chafee family lost a dear husband, father and grandfather. My thoughts and prayers go out to Virginia, his children, and his grandchildren. The Senate lost one of our most principled and reasoned colleagues. Senator Chafee will be greatly missed here. The people of Rhode Island, whose needs and concerns guided his actions on a daily basis, lost an admired Senator. His impact will be felt in Rhode Island for generations to come. Our country lost a tireless leader who consistently fought for what he believed in, and for that, I am deeply saddened.

Senator Chafee was the kind of Senator that this country needs. In times of increasing partisanship, John Chafee always reached across the aisle to form alliances, to build compromises, to get things done. He let principles, not politics, be his guide. And that enabled him to be an unbending bridge between both sides that we have so desperately needed.

Senator Chafee's politics was the kind of politics this country needs. He inspired voters on both sides of the party line with his honest, independent politics. Senator Chafee always believed that persistent honesty and unshakeable integrity were the cornerstones of public life. His was always the quiet voice of reason.

And Senator Chafee was the kind of person this country needs. John Chafee devoted his life to public service—as a

Marine, as a State legislator and minority leader in the Rhode Island House, as Governor of Rhode Island, as Secretary of the Navy, and as a United States Senator. He and his wife Virginia raised a beautiful family, and instilled in them the values of public service and integrity. I am proud to have worked with such a distinguished man.

We will always celebrate, and never forget, the work that was born of his public service, his commitment to his family, and his commitment to his principles. Senator Chafee's work here in the Senate has had a tremendous impact on our nation. He leaves a remarkable legacy.

We will always celebrate Senator Chafee's leadership on the Clean Air Act. We will always celebrate his fight to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act. We will always celebrate his hard work in authoring the Superfund program. The air we breathe and the water we drink is cleaner and safer because of his landmark efforts.

We will always remember his unwavering advocacy for a woman's right to choose. We will always remember his fight to enact the Family and Medical Leave bill. We will always remember his important work to curb gun violence in America. Our families are stronger, our constitutional rights have been protected, and our streets are safer because of his steadfast devotion to these causes.

In these ways and more, Mr. President, we will always remember and celebrate his quiet strength, his unwavering commitment to the people of his state, and to his own principles. Senator Chafee has had an indelible impact on our policy and our politics, on our culture and our country. And for that, we will always be grateful.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having come and gone, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:46 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:14 p.m., whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HAGEL).

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I understand the Senator from Montana wishes to speak. I know there are a number of other Senators who wish to speak on the Social Security issue.

Mr. President, what is the regular order? Do we have an hour?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is on the motion to proceed under cloture to H.R. 434.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be given 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Reserving the right to object, my understanding is there is no time constraint. We are on the motion to proceed; is that correct?

Mr. GREGG. There is an hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Each Senator is limited to no more than 1 hour.

Mr. BAUCUS. Asking further clarification, is that on the motion to proceed?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the motion to proceed.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the Senator from New Hampshire, I be allowed to speak for 20 minutes as in morning business.

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

The Senator from New Hampshire.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern about the President's latest Social Security proposal as outlined in his recent radio address. I hope Congress will resolve to oppose this proposal unless it can be significantly modified, and it does not appear the President wants to modify it.

I am greatly disappointed with the decision by the President to bring forward this proposal. I had hoped to work with the President in a bipartisan manner to resolve the Social Security issue. There are a number of us in the Senate who are willing to go forward in a bipartisan manner on this issue. For example, Senator KERREY, Senator BREAUX, Senator GRASSLEY, and I have introduced a comprehensive Social Security reform bill. I have been pleased with this bipartisan effort, at least in the Senate, but I have been extremely disappointed by the White House's continued partisan approach toward the Social Security problem and especially their most recent proposal, which is, to say the least, a sham proposal. My goal today is to make absolutely clear for my colleagues just why this proposal does not work.

This is not an easy task because it is a complicated and confusing issue, but it is something that must be done. Regrettably, I think the complicated and confusing nature of the proposal was intentionally created in that concept so the people would not understand it, so it would be confusing, and so that, therefore, by glossing over it with terms such as "saving Social Security," they could attempt to hide the underlying documents and energy of it, which is to basically undermine Social Security.

Thus, it is vitally important that we all understand exactly what is at stake. So I am going to go back to basics and try to simplify this as much as I can.

In its simplest terms, the Social Security system has enough money to