

U.S. Senate I now hold. When Texas was annexed to the United States of America in 1845, Thomas Jefferson Rusk, a former member of the Texas Supreme Court at that time, and Sam Houston, came to Washington to represent the State of Texas.

So I am proud to have that connection, another connection with the good people of Tennessee and with my friend LAMAR ALEXANDER, and to be connected through that lineage to that seat originally held by a great Tennessean, and we claim him as a great Texan, a great American still, Sam Houston.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, is the Senate in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is in morning business.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

#### SALLY GOFFINET

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Sally Goffinet is an unsung hero. Like many thousands of Senate staffers, her name is not widely known. There are no news accounts of her 31 years of service to her country. Her quiet professionalism will never be the subject of wide acclaim. But she is a star of the Senate family. Sally is one of the thousands of people stretching back over the history of our Republic to whom the Senate owes a very great debt.

Sally Goffinet was hired in 1972 by one of the greatest Parliamentarians ever to serve the Senate, the late Dr. Floyd Riddick. Sally was the first woman ever to be assigned to that office. She continued to serve the Parliamentarian's office until the spring of this year, at which time she retired. Sally has worked for every Parliamentarian since the office was established, except for the very first Senate Parliamentarian, Mr. Charles Watkins. Charles Watkins was the Parliamentarian when I came to the Senate 45 years ago.

Sally graduated from college with a BA in history. So her interest in the Senate came naturally.

Can you imagine the institutional knowledge and the institutional memory she possesses? She possesses something there.

When I say that, I mean an institutional memory. And not every Senator

has that, an institutional memory. It is acquired after one is here a great while, normally. But it is not normally that every Senator acquires an institutional memory.

Why is that? One has to be interested. A Senator must be interested in the Senate as an institution, its history, its customs, its folklore, its rules, and its precedents. Then one will have an institutional memory.

The institution means something. The institution is always at the center of a Senator's public life, if he or she has an institutional memory.

Can you imagine the institutional memory that Sally possesses? When one works alongside so many Parliamentarians, one acquires a deep, deep exposure to Senate rules and precedents. Senate rules and precedents—how important are they?

Thomas Jefferson in his manual, "Jefferson's Manual," spoke of Speaker Onslow.

I watched television when it was good. There is a good show on most Saturday nights. I get it on Channel 22 in McLean, or I get it on 26 over in McLean. On some evenings, this particular picture, or show, will be on both—possibly on 22 at a given time and a half hour later on Channel 26. This picture is British. Ah, what actors they are. We have few Americans, in my judgment, who are real, honest-to-goodness actors. They are conscious of the fact that they are acting in that show. It comes out at you when you watch it, but not with the British. They just act in a very natural way, and speak—what great English, what grammar. The British have it all over us, for the most part.

On Saturday nights, my wife Erma and I watch "Keeping Up Appearances." It is good, clean comedy. So tune in on "Keeping Up Appearances."

As I talk about Sally, she has seen Members come and go. She has acquired an institutional memory. And such long service in such a position imparts almost a sixth sense about the Senate and about its unique role in our constitutional system.

And as I was about to say, Thomas Jefferson spoke of the Speaker of the British Parliament when he spoke of Mr. Onslow. The reason I got off on this other part about the Saturday evening TV is because there is a person in this comedy show whose name is Onslow. When Jefferson spoke of Onslow, he was speaking of a different Onslow. He was talking of the Speaker of the House of Commons, who said—and Jefferson said it also—that it is more important that there be a rule than what the actual rule says. And he makes a very good point in saying that it is more important that there be a rule than what the rule actually says. Because if there is a rule, there will be order, and a minority will be heard. If there is a rule, there will be order.

And so we are talking now about the Parliamentarians. The Senate has not always had a Parliamentarians. But

Charlie Watkins was the Parliamentarian when I came. That is a long time ago as we measure service in the Senate.

So Sally acquired that deep exposure, that I referred to, to the Senate rules and precedents. And one who is in such a position naturally witnesses the Senate's dynamic change as events occur. History progresses and Members come and go. Such long service in such a position imparts, as I say, almost a sixth sense about the Senate and about its unique role in our constitutional system. Such an individual really can never be replaced.

Today, when so many Members and staffers in our Senate family do not stay very long, I often wonder how we will fare in keeping that sense of the institution alive in future years, that institutional pride, pride in being a Member, an individual who has been selected by the constituents of that particular State, who have gone to the voting booths and cast their votes for a particular individual to serve in this great institution. We must find a way because, year by year, an understanding of the Senate's ultimate role and purpose is slipping away.

We have these pages on the Republican side and the Democratic side, and they are wholesome, fine young people. I talk with every new class that comes in. I get acquainted with them. I talk with them. I tell them stories. I tell them, for example, the story written by that great author, Tolstoy, "How Much Land Does a Man Need?"

I have not talked to this new group yet, but probably the first story I will tell them will be "How Much Land Does a Man Need" by Tolstoy. Then I may tell them that story that great Chataquan speaker told 5,000 times. Russel Conwell, that great Chataquan speaker, told the story "Acres of Diamonds." He said he had told that story 5,000 times. Well, I am going to tell that story to the pages also.

These are great stories, and I look forward to talking with them. In this way, I help to preserve an understanding of what the Senate is all about. We talk about that. We talk about politics and about the Senate so that these young people, when they leave here, will go out and they will spread the word also.

Individuals like Sally Goffinet have helped to keep us true to our course. And, today, I thank Sally for her long years of service, her pleasant and professional demeanor, which I will miss, and her wisdom, born of long experience and deep appreciation for the special place which is the United States Senate.

I send my best to her husband of 31 years, Joe Goffinet, and to her daughter, Sarah. Joe is a special education teacher. Sarah is a graduate of Bowdoin College in Maine, and she is presently working at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. So the Senate's loss is their gain.