Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening motion or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 3681) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

**AUTHORIZING A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY**

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3711, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:


Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6859, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6859) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the "Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building":

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, shall be known and designated as the "Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building".

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6859, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6859) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the "Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. Post Office Building."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3711, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3711) to authorize a cost of living adjustment for the Federal judiciary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise to express support for a bill introduced by myself, the minority leader, and others to provide a cost-of-living salary adjustment to Federal judges.

The Framers of our Constitution were men of great vision and foresight. One of their great innovations was the establishment of an independent judiciary, which is to function as a coequal branch of government.

The Framers knew that justice and the rule of law would only prevail if judges are free from executive and legislative interference. In order to preserve the autonomy of judges, the Framers established safeguards. One of these safeguards was the assurance that judicial pay could not be diminished during a judge’s service on the bench. This safeguard was important enough that it was included in the first section of article III of the Constitution.

Unfortunately, in terms of real dollars, we in Congress have allowed judicial pay to dwindle. Since 1969, the salaries of Federal judges have significantly declined when adjusted for inflation. The Office of the United States Courts estimates judicial pay has declined by 25 percent.

Preserving judicial integrity is a bipartisan goal. Earlier this Congress