to retire, and the once great Yankees began to slide.

Those were not easy years to root for
the Yankees. People forget. Through-
out the late sixties and early seventies, the
Yankees were consistently one of the worst
performing teams in Major League Baseball.

But all that changed when George
Steinbrenner bought the team in 1973. He
brought to the Yankees a new hope
that turned around this period of de-
cline. By 1976, the Yankees were back
in the World Series, and in 1977 and 1978, we brought the championship
back home to New York.

Since then, the Yankees have once
again become a household name in New
York and around the country. They
have won 11 American League pennants and
7 World Championships. The Yan-
kees went, the day George
Steinbrenner took them over, from
being a mediocre team to the pre-
eminent sports franchise in the world.

George Steinbrenner was truly a New
York icon.

The Yankees of his day are reminis-
cent of the Yankees of the twenties,
thirties, forties, fifties, and the early
sixties. All New Yorkers and baseball
fans owe George Steinbrenner a huge
thank you for changing the face of
American baseball.

He was even beloved in Florida. Leg-
dends Field, the Yankees’ spring train-
ing facility in Tampa, was renamed
Steinbrenner Field in March 2008 in his
honor by the Hillsborough County
Commission and the Tampa City Coun-
cil.

He was a giant in baseball innova-
tion, making baseball a truly global
game.

I, along with millions of Yankee
fans—many not even in the State of
New York—are thankful for the count-
less hours of joy we have experienced
watching him at the stadium or
following them on television or radio.

George Steinbrenner was truly a New
York icon.

My thoughts and my condolences go
out to his loved ones, to the whole
Yankee family, and to the millions of
New York baseball fans. We have lost
our giant.

RECESS

The President pro tempore. Under
the previous order, the Senate stands
in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m.,
recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassem-
bled when called to order by the Pre-
sident pro tempore (Mr. Ensign).

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I sug-
gest the absence of a quorum.

The President pro tempore. The
clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to
call the roll.

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for the quorum call be rescinded.

The President without objection, it is
done.

FREEZING APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I
have a statement that I would like to
make, first on a letter and announce-
ment that all the Republican members
of the Senate Appropriations Com-
mittee have sent to the chairman of
the committee today.

Because Federal spending and debt
are at crisis levels, Republicen Sen-
ators on the Senate Appropriations
Committee are asking our Democratic
colleagues to join us in supporting the
Sessions-McCaskill freeze on discre-
tionary Federal spending. Every Re-
publican—every one of us—and 17
Democratic Senators already have
voted for the Sessions-McCaskill
amendment this session several
times.

The amendment would basically freeze Federal spending both military
and nonmilitary—which constitute about 38 percent of the Federal budget. This action by the
Senate members of the Appropriations Committee is especially important this
year because the Democratic Congress has refused to produce a budget for
next year.

Here we are, at a time when almost
every American is deeply worried
about the level of Federal debt and the
level of Federal spending, and the first
thing we would expect the Congress to
do before they send us a budget for
next year is to produce a budget that would be able to
restrain this spending—both the discre-
tionary part of it, the kind we appro-
riate year after year—and begin to
deal with the entitlements—the man-
datory spending that is on automatic
pilot. The Democratic Congress has
not produced that budget for next year, and it indicates it will not. So it,
therefore, is the first job of the mem-
ers of the Appropriations Committee to decide how much we can spend.

Year in and year out we decide where
and how we spend the money. That is
the constitutional responsibility of Congress under article I, and that is
the job we do. Perhaps we have not
done as much attention to the first responsi-
bility as we should. Perhaps we have
relied too much on the Budget Com-
mittee. Well, not this year. What we
are saying is, if we are going to be
members of the Senate Appropriations
Committee to decide how much we can spend,
then the first question we should decide is how
much Federal spending.

At a time when Federal spending and
debt is at crisis levels, when the Presi-
dent’s 10-year budget, up through the
year 2018, will double the debt and
triple the debt, it is our responsibility
to get this under control.

So our recommendation—and it is
a serious recommendation, and one we
hope and believe are colleagues who
are Democrats on the Appropriations
Committee will be able to accept be-
cause it is a bipartisan proposal that
has already, as I mentioned, received
between 16 and 18 Democratic votes on
the floor of the Senate, and every sin-
gle one of the 41 Republican Senators—
is that we essentially freeze spending in the discretionary accounts, both
military and nonmilitary, between this
year and next year.

The Federal debt is a crisis that is
imposing a burden on our children and
our grandchildren that they will not be
able to pay. It is our responsibility
deal with it and to work with it now. A Sessions-McCaskill freeze on
Federal discretionary spending for next
year is an important first step. The
next step would then be getting enti-
titlement spending under control, which
we should move on as rapidly as pos-
sible.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous con-
sent to have printed in the Record a
copy of the letter from Republican
members of the Appropriations Com-
mittee which I referred to earlier in
my remarks.

There being no objection, the mate-
rial was ordered to be printed in the
Record, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As Republican
members of the Appropriations Com-
mittee are asking our Democratic
colleagues to join us in supporting the
Sessions-McCaskill freeze on Federal
discretionary spending for next year,
we are writing to express our views regarding the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations process.

The Committee is operating in a partic-
ularly difficult environment during this
Congress. The enormity of the Federal debt poses a direct threat to our national security
and demands restraint of Federal spending.

Developing a consensus approach to funding the operations of the Federal government in
such an environment is a significant chal-
lenge.

Despite the clear need for a long term plan
that would bring our nation’s debt under
control, it is apparent that Congress will be
unable to pass a budget this year. Our Committee will instead be compelled to choose a discretionary
top-line number outside the context of a com-
prehensive budget resolution.

Over the last two years discretionary spending has increased by 17%, not including stimulus
spending. With stimulus spending included the increase soars to 84%. We note that a bipartisan majority of the Senate has
voted several times in recent months on the Sessions-McCaskill proposal to impose a discre-
tionary top-line of $101.8 billion for Fiscal Year 2011 that essentially freezes non-defense spending, and
which would result in significant reductions in spending from the President’s budget
proposal. This is a clear indication of the broad
concern that exists about levels of Federal
spending.

We are confident that, working together,
our Committee can produce bills that respon-
sibly address fundamental government
funding needs in a fiscally responsible manner. We
will not, however, be able to support appro-
priations bills that do not conform to this
top-line number.

Sincerely,

Mitch McConnell, Thad Cochran, Judd
Gregg, Lamar Alexander, Susan Col-
lins, Bob Bennett, Kit Bond, Richard
Shelby, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Sam
Brownback, George V. Voinovich, Lisa
Murkowski.

NUCLEAR POWER

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, 40
years ago, at the time of the first