

weren't living longer, we wouldn't have financial strains on these programs.

One hundred years ago, in the year 1900, if you were living in the United States of America, you were expected to live to be about 48 years of age. Now a century later, you are expected to live, on average, about 78 years in the United States. Is that good news? Absolutely.

I was at a place a while back where there was a 94-year-old woman. She danced all night at this place where they polka and waltz, and so on. You can go out and find people living much longer, healthier lives, doing things they never expected to do. Part of it is perhaps a better lifestyle, safer workplaces, part of it is better nutrition, part of it is the result of breathtaking medical changes. Fifty years ago, someone who had cataracts would be blind. Today they get an operation, and they can see. It used to be if you had bad knees or bad hips, you were in a wheelchair. Today you get new knees or new hips. Those who half a century ago would die of heart disease have heart surgery. You can find people 80 years old who have new knees, new hips, heart surgery and no cataracts, and they say, "We feel like a million bucks."

All of these breathtaking medical advances have helped improve life in this country. People are living longer. That provides us with a challenge. With more people living longer, it means we have more strain on Social Security and the Medicare programs, but, gosh, that challenge is born of success. We ought not shrink from that. So we make some adjustments here and there, thoughtful adjustments that recognize these programs work and they are good programs, but we can do that. This Congress can do that and should.

Mr. GREGG assumed the Chair.

Mr. DORGAN. President Clinton has proposed at a meeting I was at with the bipartisan leadership of the Congress, that this is the year in which we tackle the challenges facing Social Security and Medicare. I think the Presiding Officer was at that meeting. I think there is a determination by Republicans and Democrats in Congress, by the President and Congress, that we owe it to the American people to address these entitlement questions, to make the kinds of changes that are necessary so that we can give the American people confidence that these programs will be around for a long, long while. But I do want to emphasize this challenge is born of success because people are living longer and better lives. I don't want people to come here saying these programs don't work. The Social Security program and the Medicare program have been remarkably successful. Just before the Medicare program was developed, over half of the senior citizens in America had no health care coverage at all. None. Now, 99 percent

of the senior citizens in America are covered with health care. That is a dramatic difference and an improvement in the lives of tens and tens of millions of Americans.

Mr. President, those are some of the challenges we face. I agree with the majority leader that the sooner we get to them the better. We must discharge our responsibility first on the impeachment issues, but then we must turn to the business of this country and respond to the challenges I have just described.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I make a point of order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. SMITH of Oregon assumed the Chair.)

Mr. SMITH of OREGON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

Mr. SMITH of OREGON. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 5 p.m. today and the majority leader be recognized at that time.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:09 p.m., recessed until 4:58 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ABRAHAM).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ABRAHAM). The Senator from Georgia.

#### RECESS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 6 p.m. today, with the majority leader recognized at that time.

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:58 p.m., recessed until 6 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. GRAMS).

#### RECESS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, seeing no Senator seeking the floor, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 6:30 p.m. today and that the majority leader be recognized at that time.

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

Thereupon, at 6 p.m., the Senate recessed until 6:31 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BROWNBACK).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Kansas, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CONGRATULATING THE REVEREND PETER CHEI ON RECEIVING HIS U.S. CITIZENSHIP

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, it is a great honor and privilege to extend congratulations to the Reverend Peter (Yee Chung) Chei as he celebrates the granting of his United States citizenship on Friday, October 16th, 1998. Reverend Peter Chei has served our nation admirably during the thirty-three years he has made his home on our shores, and now, as a United States citizen, his continuing commitment to this nation has been sealed with the words of the Oath of Allegiance. The United States has thereby greatly profited.

The Reverend Peter Chei has long been held in my highest regard. His dedication to the redemptive mission of Christ has been an inspiration for many people across the state of Missouri, this country, and the world.

It was my good fortune to meet Reverend Chei when he was still living in Hong Kong. His father had escaped with the Chei family to Hong Kong after the communists took over the Chinese mainland in 1950. The trials faced by the Chei family as they were uprooted from Peter's birthplace parallel the trials faced by many of America's first adopted citizens escaping religious persecution. Peter Chei's decision to move to the United States in 1965 and his decision to become a United States citizen are made all the more meaningful by this stark comparison.

Having arrived in this country, Reverend Chei determined to serve God and his adopted country through a life of evangelism. His long history of ministerial and community service demonstrates his commitment. Reverend Chei has volunteered as Head Start Policy Council President, Head Start Parents Association President, Coordinator for the American Bible Society, Coordinator for the National Day of Prayer, Coordinator for the International Year of Bible Reading, Coordinator for the 1999 Year of the Bible, and as a member of the Crosswalk Teen Center. The Reverend Peter Chei founded Missouri Head Start Parents' Association, Singles and Families Educational Seminar, Christians Together in the City of Nevada, His Hope House, the Christian Artist Series, Hope for