member and a chair of the Public Service Commission for several years. During that time, he demonstrated the ability to balance the diverse utility interests in our state. This was no easy task. Mississippi is the home to both public and private power companies, PUHCas and providers of all sizes. Curt was also my representative in the Mississippi legislature, where he did an excellent job. Curt has proven that he has the skills necessary to address the needs of each of these entities, while keeping the best interest of the consumer in mind.

Congress must recognize that national electric utility deregulation is on the horizon. How and when a new system will be created remains to be seen. What is certain, however, is that the FERC will be instrumental in guiding Congress toward competition in the utility industry. I am confident that Curt has the experience and insight necessary to help us reach the right balance of interests. Most importantly, Curt understands that deregulation means at the state level. Already, Congress has witnessed deregulation of several states, but Congress will value the FERC’s input concerning deregulation.

There is no industry as complex as the utility world—and none that impacts the lives of Americans more directly every hour of every day. The challenges ahead are great and must be tackled head on. There is no denying that the FERC Commissioners have their work cut out for them.

I have enjoyed working with Curt, and spending time with his wife, Virginia, and their two children, Lane and Ashley. They are an authentic, Mississippi, and their two children, Lane and Ashley. They are an authentic, Mississippi family.

I am pleased that the Senate has proceeded to its immediate consideration.

There being no objection, the Senate reconvenes on Monday, August 2, 1999

Senators reconvenes on Monday, there will be an hour for morning business, to be followed by 2 hours for debate on the sweepstakes bill. At 3 p.m. on Monday, the Senate will resume the Agriculture Appropriations bill, and the next rollcall vote will occur at 5:30 p.m. Monday, August 2, on passage of S. 335. Additional votes could occur relative to the Agriculture Appropriations bill.