

have ratified the new constitution. Yet, it left in place the peculiar institution of slavery that eventually would tear the nation apart in civil war.

In other words, Mr. President, as remarkable as was the Constitution that emerged from Philadelphia in 1787, and as much as it solved the problems that had festered under the Articles of Confederation, it was not a finished document. Despite the towering presence of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Madison, Mason, and other wise and trusted leaders at the Constitutional convention, there remained deep public suspicion over this new government, which after all had been debated entirely in secret session. Some delegates refused to sign the Constitution because it lacked protection of individual rights. This omission proved a major obstacle to the ratification of the Constitution, leading Madison to pledge his support for a series of amendments while the ink on the Constitution was still wet. During the First Congress, as a member of the House of Representatives, Madison proposed the first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, and two other amendments not ratified at the time (one of which more recently resurfaced as the 27th amendment) and which we remember in our own time here in the Senate.

The late Justice Thurgood Marshall once commented that he could not admire the framers' decision to compromise with slavery, and that, therefore, he preferred to celebrate the Constitution as "a living document, including the Bill of Rights and other amendments protecting individual freedoms and human rights." Several amendments to the Constitution were more administrative in scope, designed to fix flaws in the Electoral College, change the calendar for congressional sessions and presidential inaugurations, and permit the levying of a federal income tax. But most of the amendments dealt with expanding democratic rights and freedoms, from the abolition of slavery to the extension of the right to vote to blacks, women, and 18-year-olds, and even for the right of the people to directly elect their United States senators. These few amendments have improved the original document. Yet, in so many respects the Constitution remains unchanged. Today, each branch of the government retains essentially the same powers it was given in 1787—albeit magnified to meet the challenges of subsequent centuries. Ours, as Justice Thurgood Marshall reminded us, is a living Constitution.

If the Holy Bible were small enough, I would carry that with me, too. This is the Constitution of the United States. Fortunately, it is a small document. It is a compact document that fits comfortably inside my shirt pocket, and several Senators in this body carry the

Constitution in their pockets. It is far shorter than most State constitutions, including my own West Virginia Constitution. It does not take long to read. But each time one reads it, one will find something new in that Constitution—some thought that did not occur to that individual before.

It does not take long to read, and yet opinion polls show that many Americans have either never read it or have forgotten most of what they learned about it in school. That may also go for a good many of the Members of this body, and the other body. It would be very well if all Members of the Senate and House reread the Constitution from time to time. It is vital that all Americans familiarize themselves with this document so that they know their constitutional rights and their constitutional responsibilities.

Let me suggest, therefore, that May 25, marking the anniversary of the day the Constitutional Convention got down to business, would be an appropriate day for all of us to once again read the Constitution and to appreciate the framers' efforts "to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

This coming Monday is Memorial Day, May 29. On that day, Edmund Randolph, Governor of the State of Virginia, presented his 15 resolves, his 15 resolutions to the convention. The debates in those ensuing days largely centered around Randolph's resolutions, or the so-called Virginia plan. So, I say to my colleagues, remember this coming Monday. That was the day when the convention first heard about the Virginia plan.

Long live the memories of the Framers of the U.S. Constitution!

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this is not quite as important a subject to my listeners, perhaps, as the words I have just spoken, but it is an important subject to me, because next Monday, the Lord willing—in the Book of James, we are told always not to say, I'll do this or I will do that tomorrow; I'll go here or I'll go there tomorrow; always say, "the Lord willing"—next Monday, the Lord willing, my wife and I will celebrate our 63rd wedding anniversary.

I have to frankly say that what little I have amounted to, if it is anything much, I owe for the most part to her. She saw to it that I earned a law degree. She virtually put me through law school by her caring ways. She fulfilled the responsibilities at home, rearing our children while I was busy. She went to the store, she did the buying, she did the washing, she did the iron-

ing, she pressed my clothes. She mopped the floors, she vacuumed the carpets, she did the work. I have never seen a person who was a harder worker than my wife and the woman who raised me, my old foster mother, my aunt.

But Erma is the one to whom credit is due. She has set the kind of example for me over the years that I have not been able to emulate fully. This coming Monday, I am going to show her my appreciation by going back to the hills with her. On Monday, we will finish reading the King James version of the Holy Bible together. We are down to where we lack four chapters. We try to read the Bible every Sunday—not that I am somebody who is good; the Bible says that no man is good; not that I am somebody good—but she and I read that Bible every Sunday. Three or four months ago, I counted the number of chapters remaining, and it came out to where if I divided them in a way that we would read six chapters every Sunday, we could finish the Bible, the reading of the Holy Bible, from beginning to end, the old testament and the new, on next Monday, our wedding anniversary. We lack four chapters, and God willing, we will finish those four chapters next Monday.

After that day, we will be on our way to our 64th wedding anniversary.

#### DETECTIVE JOHN EUILL

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as I am talking about the Bible, I want to call attention to a good man who works in this Capitol. He is a detective. His name is John Euill.

Every time this little publication comes out, he brings it to me. The title of it is, "Our Daily Bread." John Euill always brings that to me. Of course, we are not supposed to call attention to anyone in the galleries in the Chamber, but I am going to call attention to someone who is sitting on the Chamber bench on the Republican side right now. All of our Members have shaken his hand. He is courteous. John Euill is a wonderful man.

Let me read just a few words from "Our Daily Bread," which he gave me today. The chapter titled, "Building on the Bible":

What can be done to improve society? An MTV political correspondent had this unexpected but praiseworthy suggestion: "No matter how secular our culture becomes, it will remain drenched in the Bible. Since we will be haunted by the Bible even if we don't know it, doesn't it make sense to read it?"

Our culture is indeed "drenched in the Bible." Whether or not the majority of people realize it, the principles on which the United States was founded, and the values which still permeate our national life, were based on the Holy Scriptures.

If Senators don't believe that, go back and read the Mayflower Compact and many of the other great documents that form the basis of this great Nation.