

In this Chamber, it is our privilege—and our responsibility—to chart our Nation's future.

I look forward to working with Senators on both sides of the aisle, and with our new President, to find honorable ways to do the work we have all been sent here to do.

I yield the floor.

#### CONGRATULATING THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the majority leader leaves the floor, I want to tell him how much I appreciate not only the content of what he has stated but the expression that was given. We have a lot of work to do.

As our leader, we Democrats have watched you over these past 6 years, and have marveled at the work you have been able to do. I do agree with you; the Senate has changed remarkably in its composition. It has improved so much with the addition of women. Now 20 percent of our conference is made up of women. We are a better Senate for that having occurred. We are going to continue to get better.

I say to the majority leader that we support you. We acknowledge there are some things we need to work out. I hope in this tone of compromise that the first thing the Republicans will do, during the time they are in the minority status, would be to acknowledge that the Senate is 50-50, and as a result of that, because most of the work is done in committees, we have an arrangement where the committees are evenly divided. I know our leader has worked hard to accomplish that. I hope that can be done between you and Senator LOTT. I hope we will not have to have filibusters by the Republicans on a resolution to establish what is a fair, equally divided committee structure in the Senate.

I also acknowledge the leader for his statement about what we need to do. We have so many things to do: With education, health care, making sure that workers are protected, dealing with the difficult problems we have with Medicare, and paying down this huge debt that we owe. I hope we can keep our eye on the prize and not get burdened with partisan squabbling.

So as one of your loyal lieutenants, I look forward to this next Congress and accomplishing things for the people of the State of Nevada, the people of South Dakota, the people of Louisiana, and the whole country, so that we can walk out of here as proud, when this Congress ends, as we are at the beginning of this Congress.

Again, I congratulate and applaud the majority leader for his remarks.

#### THANKING THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me thank the distinguished assistant

Democratic leader, the now assistant majority leader, for his kind remarks and for all he has done for the Senate and for our caucus.

As we closed out the 106th Congress, many called attention to the remarkable work done by the assistant majority leader—then assistant Democratic leader—in the last Congress. He has become an invaluable asset. His leadership, and the strength of his day-to-day involvement on the Senate floor, in concert with our Republican colleagues, is so deeply appreciated.

I share his optimism and his determination to make this a productive Congress. I look forward, in the most heartfelt way, to working with him as we face the challenges of the new Congress.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 3:15 p.m. today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:01 p.m., recessed until 3:16 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. AKAKA].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in his capacity as a Senator from Hawaii, suggests the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### SCOOP JACKSON'S DESK

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, today we saw new Members of the Senate sworn in. It was a pleasure to see a dear personal friend, MARIA CANTWELL from the great State of Washington, sworn in as that State's junior Senator.

When I was visiting with her in the fall, during the maximum climactic days of her campaign, we were talking about the Senate and great Senators from the State of Washington, and the name of Henry "Scoop" Jackson came up. He has been one of my heroes. As a matter of fact, last year I was given the Scoop Jackson Award, and it was a great honor for me to receive it.

Scoop Jackson was, of course, known for his stance for a strong military, a strong defense, and also a strong commitment to positive and progressive social policies. This made him a great statesman from the State of Washington.

When Maria and I discussed this, I said: It is interesting; when I came to the Senate 4 years ago, I wound up with Scoop Jackson's desk. As a matter of fact, as my colleagues know, it is a tradition, after one has served here a while, that they carve their name in the desk when they leave.

This honored desk has Scoop Jackson's name carved in it. It is my pleasure today to yield to the freshman Senator from the great State of Washington and, in the great tradition of Scoop Jackson, to yield to her this desk which will be transferred to her shortly. I wish her the very best and a long, lively term in the Senate, particularly in the tradition of Scoop Jackson.

I welcome Senator CANTWELL and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from the State of Washington is recognized.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank my good friend, Senator CLELAND of Georgia, for the honor and this gift of a very humble beginning for me in the Senate, to have the opportunity not only to work with him and my new colleagues but to be the recipient of such a warm welcome.

Senator Jackson was obviously a landmark in our Capitol, as well as his years of dedication in our State. Senator Jackson arrived here in January of 1941—he was 28 years old—and started to represent the State of Washington, the Second Congressional District, and then later, for 31 years, served in the U.S. Senate.

He was a great leader on foreign policy, on human rights, on arms control, and on the importance of our environment, with the Jackson-Vanik amendment, with the National Environmental Protection Act, and a variety of other landmark environmental policies that were so important to the State of Washington but also to this country.

It is an honor to accept this gift from Senator CLELAND of the desk of Senator Scoop Jackson, a Senator who was known as one who worked across the aisle in a bipartisan fashion. In fact, one observer of public policy, George Will, called him one of the "finest public servants I have known, who mastered the delicate balance of democracy."

Again, I thank the Senator from Georgia for this very kind gift and outreach on my very first day in the Senate in the hope that I will carry on the Northwest tradition that has been so important to our State.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.