

THE SENATE AGENDA

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, Democrats have introduced some of our legislation. George W. Bush is now President Bush. His administration is coming in. We will have votes on nominees.

I think the important word here is civility. I also point out—not that I am opposed to civility—I think when people in the country—in Minnesota, Nebraska, and around the Nation—say they want us to be bipartisan, what they are not saying is, we don't want any debate. People expect debate on issues and they expect us to have differences that make a difference, especially in their lives.

But I think what people are saying is two things: No. 1, we want to have civility, we want to see civility; and the second thing that people are saying is we want you to govern at the center. But, colleagues, they are not talking about the center that I think pundits in D.C. talk about, or too many of us talk about. I think what people are talking about is not the usual labels but, rather, we want you, Democrats and Republicans, to govern at the center of our lives. That is what people are talking about, the center of their lives.

So if, in fact, we have legislation on the floor and have amendments and debate about amendments that deal with making sure people are able to have a standard of living where they can support their families and give their children the care they need and deserve, we are governing at the center of their lives. If we are talking about legislation that provides more resources to enable States and school districts to do a better job of providing the best education for all the children in this country, we are governing at the center of people's lives.

If we are going to speak, as the President did with considerable eloquence, about leaving no child behind, let us make sure this is not symbolic politics. This cannot be done on a tin cup budget. If we want to leave no child behind, the best thing we can do is make a real investment in early childhood development so these children, when they come to kindergarten, are ready to learn. They are not already way behind.

If we are going to talk about governing at the center of people's lives then we are going to have to talk about the health insecurity that so many Americans experience. I am not talking just about elderly people who cannot pay prescription drug bills. I am also talking about people toward the end of their lives who are worried they are going to go to a nursing home and then lose everything before they get any help.

What about how people can stay at home and live in dignity as long as possible? I am talking about, not just the 42, 43, 44 million people who have no

health insurance at all, but the people who are underinsured. I am talking about people who are paying more in copays and deductibles than they can afford to pay. I am also speaking about the people who right now have plans but plans that do not provide anywhere near as good coverage as we have.

It would seem to me that what is good enough for Senators and Representatives should be good enough for the people we represent. If we are going to talk about jobs and decent wages, economic development and economic growth—which is critically important, whatever ways we can contribute to that—and education and affordable child care and affordable health care, then we are governing at the center of people's lives and I think there can be real bipartisanship.

But I also want to point out I don't see how we do it with a \$1.3 trillion tax cut over the next 10 years. I don't see how we do it if that tax cut is all the way at the level of \$1.3 trillion. I certainly do not see how we do it if it is too targeted to people at the top of the income ladder. I ask my colleagues this question: How can we give all the speeches and talk about the children and talk about education and talk about health care and talk about veterans and talk about our commitment to all these issues and all these people and at the same time have no revenue? You cannot do both.

Let's have some balance here. Let's have some tax cuts that are targeted at middle-income working families and let's also not rob ourselves of the capacity to make the investments in the very areas we say we care so much about.

I also say to colleagues that I think Speaker Gingrich found this out: Don't assume there can be an assault on basic environmental protections and protections at the workplace, health and safety protections, and that will go without a fight. There will be a real fight on those issues. I hope we can find middle ground, but I do not believe it is an agenda that speaks to the center of people's lives because the vast majority of people in our country believe we are all strangers and guests on this land and we should make the environment better; we should leave it better.

I also believe we will have a healthy debate—again with civility—over the question of whether or not there is such a thing as a workable star wars, a workable missile defense which ultimately could cost hundreds of billions of dollars. This was, at first glance, a good idea, starting in the late 1950s. But every time we look at it and realize the ways offensive weaponry overwhelms defensive weaponry, and we consider the danger of chemical and biological warfare being brought in by suitcases, there is no evidence this is technologically feasible, much less the

way this puts the arms control regime in jeopardy.

So I say to my colleagues on the first day: I look forward to the debate. I look forward to passionate politics. I look forward to politics focused on people's lives. I look forward to civil debate, civil politics. I think we can have that. But I believe so much has changed in the country, so much is at stake, the Senate is 50-50—we can agree on some important legislation that will help people. Let's move forward. Then when we do not agree, there will be major, major debate on the floor of the Senate.

For my part, I look forward to working with my Republican colleagues whenever we can and wherever we can and to be honest. With a twinkle in my eye, I just as much look forward to the debate and disagreement. As a Senator from Minnesota, I am in profound disagreement with the direction on some things I think the President is going to go forward with. But that is what the Senate is all about, to have debate, to do your best for people, and I look forward to the Senate functioning at its very best. I hope we can make amendments on the floor to legislation that should not be closed off again. We can start early in the morning, work late at night, we can do the work and then I think the Senate will be at its best as an institution and give all of us a chance to be good Senators.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Chair. (The remarks of Mrs. HUTCHISON relating to the introduction of S. 11 and S. 40 are found in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to the brave and persistent efforts of the Association of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared on behalf of human rights in Colombia.

One of the most pressing human rights emergencies in our hemisphere has been taking place in Colombia, where the government, paramilitary groups, and guerrillas remain locked in fierce struggles. Thousands of innocent

civilians have been caught in the cross-fire, and human rights abuses have been rampant. Throughout Colombia, members of ASFADDES have responded to this crisis by seeking justice for their relatives who have been killed or disappeared.

Members of ASFADDES ask that cases of forced disappearances be properly investigated and prosecuted. They have worked for the last twelve years to make forced disappearances an official crime in Colombia, and a law was finally passed last year to do so, because of their work and dedication.

Because of their calls for justice, members of ASFADDES are at tremendous personal risk. Since 1993, their members have received numerous threats. According to ASFADDES, members have been harassed, and have been the subject of intelligence-gathering by Colombian police and military personnel.

The members are under particular threat, because they are one of the few organizations to bring cases against members of Colombia's security forces at the local, national, and international levels—including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights—often raising the issue of collusion between Colombia's security forces and the paramilitary. ASFADDES is the only nation-wide organization in Colombia that represents families of human rights victims. Attacks are carried out against the staff of the organization and against the family members who seek the organization's help.

Regrettably, serious acts of violence against members increased in 2000. Elizabeth Cañas of Barrancabermeja chapter was murdered on July 11; one day after the forced disappearance law was passed. On October 6, two members of the Medellín chapter, Angel Quintero and Claudia Patricia Monsalve, were disappeared. Members of the Popayan and Bogota chapters were harassed and followed, and escalating death threats were received by ASFADDES members throughout the country. The severity of the threats and attacks led the organization to temporarily close its offices last year. Sadly, a systematic campaign of terror against the organization appears to be underway.

The Interamerican Commission on Human Rights has ordered the Colombian government to provide special protective measures to ASFADDES members to ensure their safety. While certain measures have been taken by the government, ASFADDES asserts that they are not always carried out expeditiously. Moreover, the organization is extremely concerned that the Colombian government has not taken adequate measures to investigate and prosecute the multiple cases of threats, harassment, murder and disappearance directed against its members.

I commend the courageous members of ASFADDES, and all of the other men and women in Colombia who have shown great bravery in risking their careers, and their very lives, for the cause of human rights. I urge the Colombian Government to ensure that ASFADDES members and offices receive full protection, and to keep the organization informed about progress on cases it raises. I also urge the government to ensure the effectiveness of the new commission established to search for disappeared persons, under the new law against forced disappearances, and to prosecute such cases vigorously.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
WILLIAM S. COHEN

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, our Nation has been most pleased with the extraordinary leadership of Secretary William S. Cohen at the helm of our Armed Forces for the past 4 years. On January 17, 2001, the Chairman and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff honored Secretary Cohen and his lady, the First Lady of our military, Janet Cohen, with a spectacular ceremony at Fort Myer. Although the ceremony was to officially honor Secretary Cohen, it made all in attendance most pleased that Mrs. Cohen, Janet, as she is known to men and women in the Armed Forces, was also honored. I believe it was the first time in history when our troops were officially reviewed by the Secretary and his lady. Janet Cohen was most deserving of this high honor. As the remarks eloquently note, she was, indeed, the First Lady of the United States Armed Forces.

The pomp and ceremony, the colors and the parade were memorable, but the remarks made by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry S. Shelton, and the response by Secretary Cohen will be long remembered. I respectfully believe that these speeches are worthy of the attention of my colleagues. Accordingly, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the remarks by General Henry S. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the responding remarks of the Secretary of the Department of Defense, the Honorable William S. Cohen, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS OF GENERAL HENRY H. SHELTON,
USA, AT THE FAREWELL CEREMONY IN
HONOR OF SECRETARY COHEN

Secretary and Mrs. Cohen, Mr. Kevin Cohen, Members of the Cabinet, Designated Members of the Cabinet, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Members of Congress, Service secretaries, Fellow members of the Joint Chiefs, Commanders-In-Chief, Unified and Functional Commands, Distinguished guests, Fellow members of the Armed Forces, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thanks to each of you for coming to this special event as we, the members of the

Armed Forces and the Department of Defense, pause to honor and salute a truly great American couple.

But first, let me, once again, thank the outstanding men and women standing in front of you today and representing hundreds of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coastguardsmen. They are truly our Nation's treasure . . . they serve with honor and courage . . . and they are committed to keeping America strong and free.

Let's give them a hand!

We are all here this morning to honor and pay tribute to Secretary and Mrs. Cohen. And while it is always difficult to say farewell . . . the task is particularly difficult today because the Secretary and Janet have served the department . . . and indeed this Nation . . . with such distinction and so unselfishly over the past 4 years.

Of course, Secretary Cohen's outstanding service to the Nation encompasses much more than his tenure as Secretary of Defense. For nearly a quarter century, first as a Congressman and later as a Senator from the great State of Maine, he served his constituents and, indeed, all Americans well . . . as a skillful legislator and powerful advocate.

In the Senate, he was known as an influential voice on defense and international security. He was admired for his commitment to the principle that the security of our Nation is not, and should never be, a partisan matter. His focus, always, was on what was best for America and what was best for the men and women of our Armed Forces.

All of us here today recognize it is a great honor to be asked by the President to serve in the Cabinet . . . especially if it's the first time in American history when an elected official of the other party was selected to be a senior member of the cabinet.

But, 25 years in this town as a dedicated public servant is a long time . . . and Senator Cohen had certainly "earned his parole." Why then, you might ask, would this great Senator from Maine want to voluntarily extend his sentence and take on such a position?

Well, I don't presume to speak for the Secretary, nor can I know for certain why he willingly accepted the enormous demands that come with the 24 hour-a-day/7 days per week job of Secretary of Defense . . . and the "scrutiny"—I mean "help"—of his former colleagues on the Hill.

But, from almost daily observation for the last 3 years and 4 months, I know that the Secretary took the job out of a deep love for our country . . . and an equally strong devotion and respect for those who serve. And those of us in the Armed Forces are fortunate that he did!

For the past four years, America has successfully navigated the often dangerous waters of international security affairs with Secretary Cohen at the helm. The department . . . and indeed the Nation . . . have been well served having him in charge during the many storms we have weathered over these unpredictable years.

It was Joshua Chamberlain . . . another great leader from the State of Maine . . . who once said that, in times of great struggle, "it is character that tells." Chamberlain then defined character as a "firm seasoned substance of soul . . . [including] such qualities as intelligence, thoughtfulness, conscientiousness, right-mindedness, patience, fortitude, and unconquerable resolve."

Those who know Secretary Cohen, know that he personifies the qualities of character that Chamberlain, a fellow Bowdoin College