

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be a period for the consideration of morning business.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank my colleagues.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

FINAL ASCERTAINMENT OF ELECTORS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate communications from the Director of the Federal Register, National Archives, transmitting, pursuant to law, certified copies of the final ascertainment of the Electors for President and Vice President, which are ordered to lie on the table.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair appoints the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, and the Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, as tellers on the part of the Senate to count the electoral votes.

THE 107TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, 213 years ago, the Framers of the Constitution created the United States Senate.

In all the years since then, only 1,864 Americans have been granted the privilege of serving in this extraordinary body; and that includes the new Senators we welcome today.

For every Senator, whether serving in the 18th Century or the 21st, whether beginning one's first term, or—like Senator BYRD—one's eighth, the opening of a new Congress has always been a time of great hope. This Congress is no exception.

We have important work ahead of us. We also have—within us—everything we need to do that work wisely and well—if we choose to do so.

Never before has America had a 50/50 Senate. Thirty-one State legislatures have dealt creatively with this challenge in the last 30 years, but no U.S. Senate has ever been divided exactly in half.

An even split does not necessitate political gridlock—as these States have demonstrated—but does require bipartisanship.

Senate LOTT and I have had a number of discussions over the past weeks about how to organize this Congress so

that it is both representative and productive. Our conversations have been friendly and constructive, and they are continuing. It is my hope that we will have a plan soon that our fellow Senators, and our fellow Americans, will agree is workable and fair.

Another reason this Senate is historic is because it includes—I'm happy to note—a record number of women. Of the 11 new Senators who join us today, 4 are women. In all, there are now 13 women in this Senate—the most women ever to serve in the Senate at the same time. I am especially proud that 10 of those women are Democrats. In fact, there are more women Senators in our caucus this year than there were in the entire Senate last year. That is good news, for women, for families, and for this institution.

There is one more reason this Senate is historic and that is, the extraordinary events that occurred between the election and today.

This last Presidential election tested the patience of our people and the strength of our institutions like no other election in our lifetime. It was a difficult time for all Americans. But throughout those 5 long weeks of uncertainty—from election night until the Supreme Court decision—the American people remained confident that our system of government was strong enough to withstand the test of a contested Presidential election. They continued to believe that we could resolve the uncertainty, and move on. The challenge for this Congress, and this Senate, is to prove worthy of that faith. I am hopeful we can.

Now, we have a President-elect. His administration is taking shape. In just over 2 weeks, George W. Bush will become our President.

I speak for all my colleagues on this side of the aisle when I say we are ready to work in good faith with our Republican friends and with President-elect Bush and his administration to find bipartisan solutions to the challenges facing our Nation. As I have said before: Bipartisanship is not an option. If we are going to do the work here in the appropriate way, as we have been sent here to do, it is now a requirement.

Unfortunately, not everyone understands or accepts that fact. A couple of weeks ago, I read a column by a well-known syndicated political pundit. The headline read: "Beware the bipartisanship."

The next day, there was another column. It had a different author, but the sentiment was the same. The headline on that one read: "Bipartisan blather."

The writer of the first column said bipartisanship amounted to "betrayal" of one's principles and supporters.

The author of the second column was even more succinct and scathing. He called it, bipartisanship, an "instrument of emasculation."

Both of these men are good writers. They are on talk shows all the time. But they are not—as Teddy Roosevelt put it—"in the arena." They have not answered a call to public service, as we have. They didn't look people in the eyes and tell them: "If you'll vote for me, I promise you I will do my level best in the Senate, to pay down the national debt, or create an affordable prescription drug benefit", or do any of the other things we told people back home we would try to do.

They are clever writers, but they did not take an oath to serve their Nation. We have.

We need to use our cleverness to find the bipartisan solutions that evaded the last Congress. We need to show the American people that their faith in our system of government was not misplaced. And I believe we can.

After reading those negative views of bipartisanship, I decided I needed a different perspective, so I reread all seven of the speeches from the leader's lecture series.

For those who may not be familiar with it, the leader's lecture series is the most extraordinary lecture series in the city.

I commend my friend, Senator LOTT, whose idea it was.

Shortly after he became majority leader, he decided that we ought to take advantage of the unusual—perhaps unprecedented—fact that so many former Senate leaders were still alive. As he put it, we ought to find a way to share with the Nation "the wisdom and insights that can be gained only by a lifetime of service to free people."

The lectures all take place in the majestic Old Senate Chamber, where Clay and Webster debated the great issues of their day.

Over nearly 3 years, we have heard candid recollections and sage advice from seven remarkable leaders. As we begin this new Congress, I thought it might be instructive to listen again to what they had to say about what works in the Senate and what this Senate is all about.

Mike Mansfield was majority leader from 1959 to 1969. He was also Ambassador to Japan under both parties.

In the end, he said, the Senate can only function "if there is a high degree of accommodation, mutual restraint, and a measure of courage—in spite of our weaknesses—in all of us."

Howard Baker is a friend to many of us. He was the Senate majority leader during the Reagan administration and later served as President Reagan's chief of staff.

He said that our ability to settle matters of national importance peacefully and honorably in this Chamber is one of the things that sets this Nation apart from so many others.

He offered what he called a "Baker's Dozen Rules for Senate Leadership."