hoped to spend three daily papers in Washington and the Graham nomination before the end of the day tomorrow.

So Senators should be prepared to work late tomorrow in order to accommodate those two very important priorities—again, not just to us but certainly to the administration. The administration has made it very clear that this Graham nomination is important, and they have a right to assert that. We will attempt to accommodate their desire to complete the work on that confirmation before the end of the day tomorrow.

THE LIFE AND EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF KATHARINE GRAHAM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in expressing my great admiration for Katharine Graham and my profound sadness on her passing. I also convey my regrets to Mrs. Graham’s family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with them on this very sad day.

America lost a legend this afternoon. Katharine Meyer Graham was a woman of great dignity, intelligence, and wit. She was a pioneer. She was a patriot who believed deeply in the strength of our democracy, and in the indispensability of a free press in preserving this democracy.

Much has been made of Mrs. Graham’s family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with them on this very sad day.

At the time, the Post was one of the best newspapers in the country; it was one of the best newspapers in the world. In June 1971, with Katharine Graham’s blessing—the Post began its coverage of the Watergate break-in and cover-up. She never wavered in her support of her reporters and their quest for the truth.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor, as I did earlier this spring, to commend the efforts of a South Dakotan who is having a direct impact on America’s international interests. Last Thursday evening, I was proud when the Senate confirmed Lori A. Forman, born and raised in Sioux Falls, SD, to be Assistant Administrator of USAID for Asia and the Near East. She is the first South Dakotan nominated and confirmed to serve in the Bush Administration.

The Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East, ANE, has a tremendous responsibility. Stretching from Morocco in the West to the Philippines in the East, the ANE region is large and diverse and covers a wide range of issues of critical importance to the U.S., including the challenges posed by terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Unfortunately, the region poses a development challenge for the United States. According to the World Bank, the ANE region accounts for more than two-thirds of the world’s extremely poor. And those poor are succumbing more and more to the threat of infectious disease, especially HIV/AIDS. In India alone, there are 1,500 additional cases of HIV daily.

In such an important region, USAID requires a talented and experienced Assistant Administrator. Our interests there are too vital and the costs of failure too high for us to accept anyone but the finest.

I can think of no better candidate than Lori Forman. She has written extensively on the development challenges in Asia. Her writings are based on years of experience—in both the governmental and non-governmental sectors—as a development practitioner throughout Asia. She knows the region and Washington, ensuring that assistance will get to the people for whom it is intended, not become tied up in bureaucratic wrangling here.

Lori has an additional asset which she has served well in her career—and will continue to serve her well. Though she has been engaged in Asia policy for much of the last 25 years, she is from the Great State of South Dakota. In South Dakota we pride ourselves on humility, self-reliance and hard work, traits that are valuable, even crucial, to someone in the development field.

Americans from each and every state are having a positive impact on the lives of people the world over. I am particularly proud when individuals from