the Supreme Being. And people liked that. People liked that.

Nothing in the Senate is more important than seeking the Lord's blessing and paying our respects to the Creator. When the Chaplain is before us—he may be a guest Chaplain of whatever faith—it is God's time. We should respect it. We should cherish it. We should honor it as did the Presiding Officers in that day. That memory of how that impressed me has been with me through the years so that always when I open the Senate I do it the way those Senators did it in those days, now so long ago.

Back in 1990 I pointed out that:

[If something seems wrong with the Senate from time to time, we, the members, might try looking into the mirror; there, in all probability, we will see where the problem lies. Those who weaken the Senate are members who, in one way or another, bring discredit on the institution.]

Those Members, I said, are the ones:

Who never quite understand the Senate [and lack] an appreciation of its customs, its traditions, its rules and precedents, and a pride in having been chosen to serve in it.

Only 1,584 men and women have served in this body. Today, more than a decade later, I want to rephrase that point. Let me say that it is the Members who try to understand the Senate, who try to gain an appreciation of its customs and traditions, its rules and precedents, and who try to understand the Senate—that they are the ones who bring credit to the Senate. They are the Senators who will keep the U.S. Senate as a model to the people of America and the world.

In the few months that they have been here, the class of 2000 is doing

world.

model to the people of America and the who will keep the U.S. Senate as a to the Senate. They are the Senators having been chosen to serve in the Sen- teced, and who take a pride in bers who try to understand the Senate, a decade later, I want to rephrase that served in this body. Today, more than election reform possible for the Amer- But no money has yet been appro- priated for election reform. No election reform money at all—not one thin dime—is yet in any appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002.

I think we can all agree that is unac- ceptable. We must have election reform money appropriated for fiscal year 2002. Otherwise, any authorization which is passed later this fall will be all-show and no-go, until subsequent appropriations are enacted.

If we do not appropriate election re- form money in this round of appropriations—for fiscal year 2002—then election reform will be delayed. Election reform would either be postponed until fiscal year 2003, or be contingent upon an emergency supplemental appropriations bill at some point.

Election reform delayed is election reform denied.

The Republican Leader, Senator Lott, had planned the election reform debate in the Senate to occur during June. Senators Schumer, Torricelli, and I were ready to press ahead. The organizations supporting our bill—including Common Cause and the League of Women Voters—were ready to do an all-out push for our election reform bill. Obviously, that floor debate did not happen.

It is not clear now when election re- form will pass the Senate in the form of an authorization bill. In any event, any authorization for Federal funding for new voting machines and other en- hancements in election systems will require that money be appropriated.

That is why I take the floor today, to announce my plan to pursue a mean- []

The McConnell-Schumer bill authorizes $500 million annually. The Dodd bill authorizes such sums as many be necessary.

While it may be nearly impossible to appropriate several hundred million dollars for the upcoming fiscal year, I do believe that we can come together on both sides of the aisle to find an election reform appropriation that is possible and meaningful. Today, I am pledging my commitment to do just that and calling on my colleagues on the Rules and Appropriations Commit- tees to help me make this happen.

There will have to be an authoriza- tion mechanism later on to determine precisely who will administer the funds, how, to whom and for what. But we do know that the sum is substan- tial. And that time is running out to make a difference for the 2002 elections.

Senators on the Appropriations Com- mittee have already demonstrated great enthusiasm for election reform with nearly all the Republicans and half the Democrats on my bill and all the Democrats on the Dodd bill. If not successful at the committee stage in the appropriations process, I will offer an amendment on the floor at a suitable time.

One way or another, we need to make sure that the Senate will have the election reform issue before it—sooner rather than later—in the form of the funding that is absolutely essential to make the McConnell-Schumer- Torricelli election reform bill, the Dodd bill, or the McCain bill work.

Let's appropriate election reform money for 2002. We can decide later which election reform bill will become law, who will hand out the money, and whether there will be Federal mandates.

I look forward to working with Chairman DODD on the Rules Com- mittee and Senators BYRD and STEVENS and my fellow members of the Appropriations Committee to ensure that this appropriations season does not pass without setting aside funds for election reform.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPOR- TATION AND RELATED AGEN- CIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen- ate will now resume consideration of H.R. 2299, which the clerk will report. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2299) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and