

bill in place. That is what this debate was about.

We lost today, no question about it. One can describe it a lot of ways. There was once a general who lost badly in a battle, and the press asked him what happened. He said: As far as I am concerned, we took quite a beating. He was pretty candid about it.

We lost this morning. North Dakota farmers lost \$60 million, but this morning was just the bell for the end of round one. There will be other rounds, and this issue is not going away. The \$1.9 billion is not going away. That \$1.9 billion is available to help family farmers.

Senator HARKIN from Iowa brought that help in a bill that did not have a budget point of order against it. It has been provided for in the budget. It was available, and we ought to make it available when it is needed. It is needed now.

We lost today, but we will be back in September or in October. I believe in the end we will prevail on this issue.

Let me make a final point. Some say: Why is it I care so much about family farming? Why don't I deal with other issues, other businesses? My State is 40 percent agriculture. What happens to family farmers has an impact on every Main Street and every business on every Main Street in the State of North Dakota. It is not just the economic issues that concern me, however. I think our country is more secure, and I think our country is a better place when we have a broad network of producers living on the farms in this country producing America's food.

Europe does it that way because they have been hungry in their past and they decided never to be hungry again. They want to foster and maintain a network of producers across Europe. We ought to do the same.

The family farm is not just an economic unit. It is that, to be sure, and it is an economic unit that is destined to fail when prices collapse if we do not do something to help. But it is much more than just an economic unit. Family farms produce more than just a bushel of wheat. Family farms produce a culture that is important to this country. They produce community. They produce values. They are a seedbed—and always have been a seedbed—for family values in our country. Family values that have for years been rolling from family farms to our small towns to our large cities.

Family farms are not just some piece of nostalgia for us to talk about. Those who support big corporate agriculture and would not mind seeing a couple big corporations farming America from California to Maine say the family farm is yesterday. They say, good for you, good for supporting yesterday, but it is yesterday. It is like the little old diner, as I have said before, that is left

behind when the interstate comes through: It is nice to look at, does not mean much, but it is not a viable part of our modern society. They are dead wrong. They are as wrong as can be. The family farm is important in this country. It is important to its culture, and it is important to its future.

When we have a debate about these issues, we discover the answer to these questions: Whom do you stand for, whom do you fight for, and what are your priorities? Some say: My priorities are to let Mexican trucks into this country. That was the big debate we had for the past week and a half. My priorities are to build a national missile defense system and it does not matter what it costs, they say. My priorities are to stand with the managed care industry and the big insurance companies in the debate on a Patients' Bill of Rights. That is what they say.

Those are not my priorities. My priorities are to say I stand for family farmers. I stand for the interests of family farmers and the role they should play in our country's future. But they cannot and will not play that roll, unless we help them over tough times.

Let me go back to one final point. This is a big world with a lot of people living in it. I have traveled much of it. It is true that all over this world, even as I speak, people are dying from hunger and hunger-related causes, most of them children. About 40 to 45 people a minute die from hunger and hunger-related causes. My old friend—the late Harry Chapin, who died many years ago, this wonderful singer, songwriter, storyteller—used to devote half the proceeds of all of his concerts every year to fight world hunger. He said this: If 45,000 people died tomorrow in New Jersey, it would be headlines around the world, but the winds of hunger blow every single day across this world and cause death. Nary a headline anywhere.

My point is, we have wonderful family farmers who struggle and risk all they have and work very hard to produce the best quality food produced anywhere in the world. They produce this food in a world that is rife with hunger, in a world in which young children suffer by not having enough to eat in so many corners of our globe. And then our family farmers are told the food they produce has no value.

This country is the arms merchant of the world. We ship more military equipment and sell more military equipment than any other country in the world by far. I would much prefer we be known as a country that helps feed the world, as a country whose family farmers labor hard to produce good quality food, and we find a way to connect that with the needs that exist in this world and give children a chance.

This issue is a big issue, an important issue. Our family farmers have a

big stake in it. This morning in North Dakota, our family farmers lost \$60 million that they should have received to help them over these tough times.

We are going to be back. We lost round one, but we are not giving up. We are going to come back and get that assistance for family farmers. Why? Because we think it is important not just for family farmers, but because we think it is important for our country and for our country's future as well.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank Senator JEFFORDS for allowing me to go ahead and do this bit of work and make a statement about which I feel very personal and passionate.

COMMENDING ELIZABETH LETCHWORTH

Mr. LOTT. I send a resolution to the desk and I ask that it be read in its entirety.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

S. RES. 154

Whereas Elizabeth B. Letchworth has dutifully served the United States Senate for over 25 years;

Whereas Elizabeth's service to the Senate began with her appointment as a United States Senate page in 1975;

Whereas Elizabeth continued her work as a special Legislative assistant, a Republican Cloakroom assistant, and as a Republican Floor Assistant;

Whereas in 1995 Elizabeth was appointed by the Majority Leader and elected by the Senate to be Secretary for the Majority;

Whereas Elizabeth was the first woman to be elected as Republican Secretary;

Whereas Elizabeth was the youngest person to be elected the Secretary for the majority at the age of 34: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate commends Elizabeth Letchworth for her many years of service to the United States Senate, and wishes to express its deep appreciation and gratitude for her contributions to the institution. In addition, the Senate wishes Elizabeth and her husband Ron all the best in their future endeavors.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Elizabeth Letchworth.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 154) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know from the expressions on the faces of all of our officers and staff members in the Senate Chamber, there is a bittersweet feeling about the fact that Elizabeth Letchworth will be leaving to go on to the next venture in her life. I have said many times—not often enough—how much I appreciated the great work done by the officers of the Senate and the staff, those who read the bills, the clerks, the Parliamentarians, our own floor assistants. They make this place run. They serve us all so well, Democrat and Republican. We get to take the bows and go back home to our constituents, or home for the night, and quite often they continue to work. I take this occasion to thank all for the great work they do and say how much I appreciate you.

The record will show someday that quite often I took into consideration a very capable and deserving staff in deciding not to be in session on occasion. I do think about the staff, and I am sure that my successor as majority leader will do the same.

Also I should say I regret that I am doing this alone, now, at this hour. There is probably not a Senator in this body who could not tell a personal story about some event or some situation where Elizabeth Letchworth helped—again, Republican and Democrat, and Independent. She has looked after us all, sometimes when we did not even deserve it, but she was particularly helpful to me while I was majority leader. The rules of the Senate are not easy to understand. We mess them up every now and then, especially if we try to do things on our own. If there is an Elizabeth or a Marty or a Lula or a Dave, quite often we avoid making a mistake.

Elizabeth has been special. On behalf of all the Republican Senators, and all Senators, we thank her for her years of service and dedication. Senator Dole had a lot of fine staff, but I guess Elizabeth is the one who has stayed with me the longest. She serves the institution. She doesn't serve one leader or another. She has served us all well. We have been smart enough to keep her around.

While I wish we had all 100 Members here—and perhaps I should have done this earlier today when we were all here, but it is typical of her—we were running around trying to figure out how we were going to get the Agriculture bill done with the least amount of pain and suffering for both sides and for the President. And we got it done. Once again, she helped to make it possible.

I wanted the resolution to be read in its entirety because she has had quite a career. It is obvious she is quite young, still. But she has been around this institution for almost 26 years, going back to 1975. She started as a page dur-

ing her junior and senior years in high school. Obviously she should have known then not to stay any longer, but she made a miscalculation, as young people quite often will, and she has been here ever since.

Elizabeth had her first permanent position with former Republican Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania. That was so long ago I was not even in Congress—maybe I was. I guess I would have been, but I can't remember that far back. She served for Howard Baker, Bob Dole, and now for me as majority and minority leader. She is the first and only one, to date, to hold the post of Republican secretary, and she served in that position for 7 years.

Elizabeth is a native of Virginia. Let me note, also, her parents are Jody and Don Baldwin. I want to mention them in particular because I have known her father for about 30 years myself, going back to when I was a staff member for a Democrat in the House. If that is not ancient history, I don't know what is. But I always loved him and enjoyed working with him. I know he was oh so proud of Elizabeth and the confidence we have had in her and the job she has done.

She did, again, show great wisdom. She married Ron Letchworth, born in Greenville, MS, finished high school at Hazlehurst, MS, and as is typical of southern boys, he overran his kick coverage and married Elizabeth. That means he married way over his head, but he is a great guy.

Elizabeth is retiring and going on to do different things, other things. I believe they will live in North Carolina and she will tend to her other passion—other than the Senate—golf and other things about life that are important. Too often, as staff members and as Senators, we get to thinking this is the world, it is all here in this room, in this Chamber, in this building, within the beltway. But out beyond the beltway is a wonderful life, a lot of wonderful people, and a lot of wonderful things to do.

I understand there is life after the Senate. I am not sure of that, but for now I look forward to finding that out someday myself.

Until then, I say to Elizabeth Letchworth, we appreciate all you have done. We will always think of you and love you and we wish you the very best at whatever you do.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I am happy to yield.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I join in the accolades. I know I speak 100 percent for the Independents here when I say that, having experienced the tremendous responsibility that is carried by Elizabeth. But I also know her effectiveness. There is not a Senator here who has not been saved at least once, twice, or three times out of embarrassment by being astutely and highly reminded

that you forgot to do something, but, most of all, just the effectiveness and the confidence that all of us have in Elizabeth, making sure that everything is fair and square. She has been fantastic.

I agree with every word the Senator said, and I am sure I speak for all Members not here.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I, too, come to the floor to publicly acknowledge and thank Elizabeth for the public service she has provided to her country. Public service is not easy. It requires many, many sacrifices. It is enough to provide the sacrifices, but to do it with grace, with intelligence, with a sense of humor, and with a real sense of dedication is another matter altogether.

Elizabeth Letchworth did it just that way. She is a Republican. I am a Democrat. As Senator BOND and others have noted, there are times when Democrats and Republicans have it out in so many ways on the Senate floor politically and philosophically. But there are those times when, in spite of our deep differences of opinion, we recognize there is a higher calling, a higher responsibility, and a higher order. I must say in all the years I have known her, Elizabeth understood that and demonstrated that with her actions and with her words.

She in many respects exemplifies the very finest of public service professionalism. She made our jobs easier. She made our jobs even more enjoyable, and certainly I think more rewarding.

On this her last day, I know I speak for all of my colleagues on this side of the aisle in expressing to her our heartfelt thanks, our sincere congratulations, and our best wishes for what we know will be a very exciting future.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I wish to add my voice to that of the distinguished majority leader in extending my very best to a remarkable woman who served all of us tremendously well during her tenure.

Elizabeth, we wish you the very, very best. I know to the outside world, as they look at the floor and they see Republicans on one side and Democrats on the other, we must look slightly chaotic, to put it mildly to the casual observer. But what they do not see day in and day out is the tremendous work of the staff who represent us at one level. They work so deeply and profoundly with all of us on many levels.

I cannot tell the Chair on how many occasions Elizabeth Letchworth has been tremendously kind and generous to me when I have come to the floor and asked for guidance or assistance. She never looked at me as if I were a Democrat when she responded to me. She looked at me as a Senator and a person who had a job to do.

We will miss you tremendously and only hope that your example will be followed by others who sit in that chair in the years to come, be they Democrats or Republicans on either side.

I wish you and your family the very best, and I hope you come back often to see us.

I thank you for the tremendous courtesies that you have extended to me and to other Members of this body throughout your service. We thank you immensely.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, a few months ago our distinguished Republican leader presented a resolution which was adopted, I think, with the wholehearted support of all of us. I want to take a moment for a personal thank you to Elizabeth Letchworth, who has been an absolutely invaluable guide and counselor and friend during the time I have been in the Senate.

When we first get to the Senate, as the occupant of the chair knows well, our normal question is: What is happening? It is a little bit obtuse and confusing. I often recall that great old saw that: In these chaotic times that are so complex, if you are not totally confused, you are not thinking clearly.

There are times when I have passed that test of thinking clearly by being totally confused. Usually the person I went to was Elizabeth, and I would say, "What's happening?" She could explain not only the procedural aspects and what we needed to do in terms of making sure our rights were protected and we were able to present our views, whether on resolutions or bills—she was absolutely invaluable in that—but she also had a pretty good idea of what was going to happen, too. Trying to schedule the day around the work of the Senate floor is a challenge which I don't think any of us not the leadership—maybe even not some of them—have mastered. Because things do change here, it is always very difficult to figure out what is going on.

Elizabeth was the one who, time and time again, told us what was likely to happen, when we could plan on things, what we could do.

On a personal note, as my son was growing up and going to school here, the time I was able to spend with him in the evenings depended upon when we could complete our out-of-Senate work. Elizabeth became probably the best friend I had in terms of my being able to spend some time with my son. I would walk up to the desk in the front with a perplexed look on my face, and she would say: Are you having dinner with your son tonight or do you have something planned? She knew in advance what I was coming to ask her, and she was often able to tell me very precisely what was going on.

In terms of my relationship with my son, I know I can add his thanks to

mine for the great friendship and the thoughtfulness she exhibited in helping us deal with the complex time schedules of the Senate.

Most of all, I have to say in this body sometimes things get a little tense. There is tension across the aisle and there is tension with colleagues on our own side of the aisle. But she was always able to maintain a pleasant and a friendly attitude that helped take away some of the tension and helped smooth over some of the difficult times.

That is a high standard she has set. It is going to be very difficult for those who follow her to equal that degree of service and friendship. But I join with all my colleagues in saying a heartfelt thanks for being a wonderful friend, a great guide, great counselor. We wish you the very best of luck. We hope, if your sense of humor permits, you will come back and watch us from time to time and help guide us through the difficult times ahead. You have certainly done an excellent job in the past.

I join wholeheartedly with a sincere vote of thanks for Elizabeth Letchworth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the distinguished Senate leaders have called attention to the fact this is the last day on which Republican Secretary Elizabeth Letchworth will work with us in this Chamber. Thus ends the extraordinary career of an extraordinary Senate staff person.

Elizabeth originally came to the Senate as a page. She stayed for 26 years. That is almost as long as Robinson Crusoe was on that island. He was on that island 28 years, 2 months and 19 days, so Elizabeth has almost equaled that. Her diligent, dedicated work, and her loyalty to the Senate led to her eventual rise to Republican Secretary, the first woman, the only woman, to serve in that capacity.

Ms. Letchworth has worked for or with six different Senate majority leaders, including myself. Therefore, I am speaking from personal experience when I say she made life and work easier and more enjoyable for all of us. Through the years, I came not only to respect Elizabeth's work, but also to admire her as a person. She always provided an oasis of calm in the middle of the many storms that brewed about her on the Senate floor. She was friendly and courteous. She worked on the Republican side, but she was always straightforward with me, always accurate. Not once did she ever mislead me, but she always was willing to be so helpful.

Hers were the qualities so important to Members on both sides of the aisle because those qualities engender that precious commodity, and it is a most precious commodity in this Chamber, a most precious commodity if the Senate

is to work its will. It is a commodity called trust. The Members on the Democratic side of the aisle developed such a high regard for Elizabeth that when we learned she was leaving, the Democratic Conference passed a resolution commending her for her extraordinary work and her illustrious career.

Elizabeth's work here in the Senate will be remembered. I hope she will come back and see us. She has served the Senate well and in serving the Senate well, she served her country well. I wish the best for Elizabeth Letchworth and her husband Ron as they embark upon a new phase in their lives. I doubt that our paths will ever cross in that new phase because I do not play golf. I do not have much time for it, but I hope this new phase in her life will be enjoyable. I trust she will remember us as fondly as we will certainly remember her.

LIFE'S MIRROR

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave,

There are souls that are pure and true,
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.

Give love, and love to your life will flow,
A strength in your utmost need,
Have faith, and a score of hearts will show
Their faith in your word and deed.

Give truth, and your gift will be paid in kind;

And honor will honor meet:
And a smile that is sweet will surely find
A smile that is just as sweet.

Give pity and sorrow to those who mourn,
You will gather in flowers again
The scattered seeds from your thought out-
borne,

Though the sowing seemed but vain.

For life is the mirror of king and slave,
Tis just what we are and do;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.—Madeline Bridges.

May God always bless you, Elizabeth.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent all the remarks made on the Senate floor regarding Elizabeth Letchworth appear in the RECORD immediately following the remarks of Senator LOTT.

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

ELECTING DAVID SCHIAPPA SECRETARY FOR THE MINORITY

Mr. LOTT. Now, we make a first attempt to name a successor, and that will be a difficult task. So I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A resolution (S. Res. 155) electing Dave Schiappa of Maryland as secretary for the minority of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.