

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.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution 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. 155) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. LOTT. Good luck, Dave; you are going to need it. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Mr. JEFFORDS. I rise today to voice my frustration about the events that unfolded today regarding the Agricultural Economic Assistance Act. I am disappointed for one reason. This legislation leaves my farmers behind. Of the \$5.5 billion in this bill, only a very small amount goes to Vermont or any of the farms in our area of the country. Only \$1.5 million out of the \$5.5 billion in this package will reach Vermonters. That amounts to only about \$1,000 per farm.

Mr. President, 50 percent of the money goes to 10 States. Our dairy farmers are the hardest working, most efficient. The compact has no Federal cost.

It is without question that the states in the Northeast are left out.

During the proceedings on this bill, there was much talk about the amount of the overall spending package. As we continue to wrestle with budget and spending concerns, I encourage my colleagues to take a look at a program that provides assistance and stability for farmers at no cost to the federal government, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

The Northeast Dairy Compact was established to restore the regulatory authority of the six New England states over the New England dairy marketplace. This authority, however, must be granted by Congress.

By gaining the consent of Congress in 1996, the Northeast Dairy Compact has allowed the compact commission to regulate milk pricing in the region.

Since July of 1997, when the compact commission first set the Class I over-order price at \$16.94, the Northeast Dairy Compact has proven to be a great success—providing farmers with a fair price for their milk, protecting consumers from price spikes, reducing market dependency upon milk from a single source, controlling excess supply, and helping to preserve rural landscapes by strengthening farm communities.

Farmers across our Nation face radically different conditions and factors of production.

Differences in climate, transportation, feed, energy, and land value validate the need for regional pricing. Compacts allow states to address these differences and create a price level that is appropriate for producers, processors, retailers and consumers.

The stability created by the compact pricing mechanism is important for several reasons. It guarantees farmers a fair price for their product and allows them to plan for the future. Farmers, knowing that they can count on a fair price, can allocate money to purchase and repair machinery, improve farming practices, and above all, stay in business.

Opponents of compacts argue that compacts leads to overproduction. These allegations, however, are unfounded. The Northeast Dairy Compact has not led to overproduction during its first 4 years. In fact, during 2000, the Northeast Dairy Compact states produced 4.7 billion pounds of milk, a 0.6 percent reduction from 1999. Since the Northeast Dairy Compact has been in effect, milk production in the region has risen by just 2.2 percent. Nationally, milk production rose 7.4 percent from 1997 to 2000. Over this same period, California, the largest milk producing state in the country, increased its milk production by 16.9 percent.

Originally created as a three-year pilot program, the Northeast Dairy Compact has been extremely successful in demonstrating the merits of compacts. We no longer need to speculate about the potential effects of compacts. We now have the hard evidence—they are good for farmers, good for consumers, and good for the environment.

As has been stated by several of my colleagues today, we, who represent the Northeast will do everything in our power to secure the survival of our family farms. We look forward to working throughout this year to make sure the dairy compact is, again, allowed to show the benefits to this Nation of effective farming which results in no cost to the Government.

It is certainly hard for me to understand why we get so much criticism. It is the only farm program that doesn't cost the Federal Government money, and it is one of the first on some people's lists of programs to get rid of. It is entirely unbelievable and incomprehensible.

I yield the floor.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE TWO HOUSES OVER THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 208, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate H. Con. Res. 208, which will be stated.

The bill clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 208

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, August 2, 2001, or Friday, August 3, 2001, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 208) was agreed to.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ELECTION REFORM

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I would like to talk about election reform. I have talked about it on a number of occasions.

Yesterday, as chairman of the Rules Committee, we had a markup of one of the election reform bills. I say with a high degree of sadness—and I truly mean this—that our good friends on the Republican side of the aisle decided for whatever reasons not to show up; to sort of boycott the markup. I haven't had that experience in my 20 years in the Senate and 6 years in the House. I gather that it may have happened on other committees but never on ones on which I served.

Again, I understand there is disappointment sometimes when our amendments or our bills are not going to be marked up, or are not going to have the necessary votes to be marked up. I had scheduled the markup well in advance with full notice. There are some 16 election reform bills that I know of which have been introduced in the Senate. We didn't mark up all of them. We marked up one bill. It was open for amendment, or substitution, as is the normal process. As I have been both in the majority and minority, over the years that is how it has been done.

In the Rules Committee you cannot vote by proxy. You have to be there for the final vote. You can only vote by proxy on amendments.