

American people are ill-served, as you do, when there are personal attacks on any of our leaders.

Do we have differences? Yes. Should we express those differences? Absolutely. Because, frankly, I have a lot of people who say: What really is the difference between Democrats and Republicans? So the fact that we do not agree on an economic stimulus package is to be expected. The fact that the Democrats are fighting for people who lost their jobs, yes, that is to be expected. The fact that we do not think it is right to give big rebate checks to the largest and most wealthy corporations in America and call it a stimulus, the fact that we do not agree with it is to be expected. The fact that the other side would support that is to be expected. So debating that is fine.

But my colleague has pointed out the viciousness of the attack against the leader of this Senate, TOM DASCHLE, who happens to be one of the kindest, most compassionate people in politics today, is something that cannot go by without a statement.

So I say to my friend, by way of a question, isn't it true that the people of this country expect us to have differences, expect us, on domestic policy, to bring those differences to light, where we are so united on the terrorism front—and we support our President and our Secretary of State; and we are moving together in this fight; there are no differences really, not even around the edges on that. But isn't it a fact that it is fine for us to have these differences, but that these differences should be debated with respect, with fairness, and with dignity?

Ms. STABENOW. I couldn't agree more with my friend from California. I know the families I represent in Michigan are saying to me: We know there are differences in approaches.

That is a reason why they sent me here. And I am of a different party, a different philosophy, on economic questions possibly, or other domestic issues, than those on the other side of the aisle.

They expect us to operate with civility, with respect. I believe and in fact have been telling people in Michigan that there is a new day, that since September 11 we have come together. Yes, we have differences in priorities. We are Americans. Under the Constitution, we have a right, an obligation, to give our point of view. There will be differences.

The personal attacks, the vicious partisan attacks that we have heard recently are just the same old thing we have seen for too long around here. People don't want to see that happening.

I will not question someone's patriotism. I will not say because they differ with my thoughts that there is nothing between their ears or that they are somehow a child who wants a recess

and that they are a third grader—whatever the comments were last week. Those kinds of things, frankly, demean all of us. That is my concern.

We have a lot of work to do in this next couple of weeks. People expect us to be focused on their needs and on the needs of the country, the safety of the country, the economy. It is legitimate for us to debate, and we have legitimate differences on how to move the economy forward. I have spoken before in this Chamber about whether it is supply side economics or demand side economics, what is the best mix? That is legitimate. People expect us to do that. We would not be fulfilling our own responsibilities as individual Senators not to come forward with our own ideas. But when it goes on and we hear our leader being attacked for abrogating his responsibility or that every day someone is in pain should be laid at the foot of TOM DASCHLE, that is uncalled for.

I was particularly concerned that there are actually ads being run now attacking our leader in the Senate because of a meeting he had in Mexico with the President of Mexico. Our President has met with Vicente Fox. President Fox has been here. We have welcomed him to the Capitol. They are our neighbors to the south. We have important work to do with them. Certainly part of what happens economically relates to trade and the relationship of our two countries. Yet we have those who have actually paid for partisan ads back in our leader's home State to imply that while a weekend in Mexico might be a nice break from the attacks at hand, in fact, this trip was the wrong thing to do.

I hope we can decide we are going to dedicate the time between now and the end of this session to the serious, vital business at hand and the priorities about which we can disagree. We can disagree about whether or not to drill in Alaska's national wildlife refuge. We can disagree about appropriations priorities.

As someone who has tremendous respect for the leader of this body, I will continue to object when there are personal comments made either about our leader or about the Republican leader or about others on the Senate floor. We have been through too much together since September 11 to turn back to the personal kinds of derogatory statements that were a part of the past. We can do better than that. The American people deserve better. The American people expect us to do better than that.

I call on the President of the United States and the Republican leadership to join us in a vigorous, sincere debate on the priorities for the country, the best way to achieve economic recovery and security, and to do that with the highest and best that is in us. We have a great body and people of wonderful good will on both sides of the aisle in

both Houses, as well as the White House. We can do what the people expect us to do. We can do it right. I hope in fact we will get about the business of doing it.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled vote which is scheduled for 12:30 now begin at 12:25 p.m. today.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment, the Domenici amendment No. 2202, be laid aside, to recur at 2:15 p.m. today; that there then be 5 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to a vote in relation to the amendment; that there be no second-degree amendments in order, nor to the language proposed to be stricken.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2299.

The yeas and nays have been ordered and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows: