

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will state the resolution by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 103) expressing the thanks of the Senate to the Honorable Strom Thurmond for his service as President pro tempore of the United States Senate and to designate Senator Thurmond as President pro tempore emeritus of the United States Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There being no objection to the consideration of the resolution, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 103) reads as follows:

S. RES. 103

*Resolved*, That the United States Senate expresses its deepest gratitude to Senator Strom Thurmond for his dedication and commitment during his service to the Senate as the President pro tempore, further as a token of appreciation of the Senate for his long and faithful service Senator Strom Thurmond is hereby designated President pro tempore emeritus of the United States Senate.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider and move to table the motion to reconsider.

The motion was agreed to.

ELECTION OF MARTIN P. PAONE AS SECRETARY OF THE MAJORITY

Mr. DASCHLE. I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will state the resolution by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 104) electing Martin P. Paone as secretary for the majority of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the immediate consideration of the resolution.

Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 104) reads as follows:

S. RES. 104

*Resolved*, That Martin P. Paone of Virginia, be, and he is hereby, elected Secretary for the Majority of the Senate, effective June 6, 2001.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to reconsider and move to lay the motion to reconsider on the table.

The motion was agreed to.

ELECTION OF ELIZABETH B. LETCHWORTH AS SECRETARY OF THE MINORITY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send another resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will state the resolution by title. The legislative clerk read as follows.

A resolution (S. Res. 105) electing Elizabeth B. Letchworth as secretary for the minority of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the immediate consideration of the resolution.

Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 105) reads as follows:

S. RES. 105

*Resolved*, That Elizabeth B. Letchworth, of Virginia, be, and she is hereby, elected Secretary for the Minority of the Senate, effective June 6, 2001.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider and move to table the motion to reconsider.

The motion was agreed to.

SERVING IN THE SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND, for his service to our country and to this body as President pro tempore.

I offer my hearty congratulations to Senator ROBERT C. BYRD in returning to this high position this morning. Between these two men, the Senate enjoys 90 years of service. The wisdom they have given Members is beyond measure.

I thank my partner, my counterpart, Senator LOTT. This is the second time this year Senator LOTT and I have switched roles. To us, this is just another in a series of challenges he and I have faced already this year. Every time we have been presented with these challenges, we have come through with our working relationship and our friendship not only intact but, in my view, strengthened. It is my hope and my expectation that we will continue to be able to work together in this manner.

Finally, there is another person who deserves special recognition. That is Senator JEFFORDS. Last week, I was deeply touched by Senator JEFFORDS' courageous decision and his eloquent words. The Senator from Vermont has always commanded bipartisan respect because of the work he does. Regardless of where he sits in this Chamber, his work will continue, and America will be better for it.

This, indeed, is a humbling moment for me. I am honored to serve as majority leader, but I also recognize that the majority is slim. This is still one of the most closely divided Senates in history.

We have just witnessed something that has never happened in all of Senate history—the change of power during a session of Congress.

At the same time Americans are evenly divided about their choice of leaders, they are united in their demand for action. Polarized positions are an indulgence that the Senate cannot afford and our Nation will not tolerate.

Republicans and Democrats come to this floor with different philosophies

and different agendas, but there are beliefs we share. Both Republicans and Democrats believe in the power of ideas. Both Republicans and Democrats believe in fashioning those ideas into sound public policy. The debate on that policy is what I like to call the noise of democracy. Sometimes it is not a very stereophonic sound. Sometimes there is too much sound from the right or from the left. But it is a sound that, in my view, is beautiful—especially in comparison to the noise of violence we hear in so many places all over the world today.

In this divided Government—in spite of the passion with which we hold these ideas, in spite of the fervor with which we come to the floor to represent them—we are required to find common ground and seek meaningful bipartisanship. As I have said before, real bipartisanship is not a mathematical formula; it is a spirit. It is not simply finding a way to reach 50 plus 1. It is a way of working together that tolerates debate. It means seeking principled compromise. It means respecting the right of each Senator to speak his or her mind and to vote his or her conscience.

In this Senate, at this time, on this historic occasion, each Member has something to prove. We need to prove to the American people we can overcome the lines that all too often divide us. We need to prove we can do the work the American people have sent us to the Senate to do.

I came to the Congress 22 years ago. I have had the good fortune of having many mentors. My friends know that I often speak of one, in particular, whose advice continues to guide me. His name: Claude Pepper. He was a Congressman from Florida and at one time a Senator in this body. He told me once that, as fervent and as passionate a Democrat as he was, it wasn't really whether one was a "D" or an "R" that mattered; it was whether one was a "C" or "D"—it was whether one was "constructive" or "destructive" in the political and legislative process.

I hope I can prove to my colleagues on this side of the aisle that I can be a constructive leader. I hope we all recognize the difference between constructive and destructive politics and legislative work. I hope that we can live up to the expectations of the American people and people such as Claude Pepper.

As we address the agenda this body has before it, I hope we can be constructive Republicans and constructive Democrats.

I thank my colleagues for their trust. I thank my colleagues for their friendship. I am prepared to go to work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me first join Senator DASCHLE in expressing my