

in congratulations to both TED, Catherine, and daughter Lilly. It's been great fun and a true privilege working with you my friend.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENATOR
ROBERT BYRD

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if the Republican leadership is successful in negotiating an agreement with the President on a continuing resolution, it appears that the Senate may not be in session on Monday, November 20.

For that reason, today I would like to take a moment and wish the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia, Senator ROBERT BYRD, an advance Happy Birthday. On Monday, Senator BYRD will celebrate his 78th birthday.

Mr. President, the public often views the Senate engaging in bitter partisan debate. Yes, we Republicans have our differences with the Democrats. But when the debates are over, and the votes have been cast, the public would be surprised to learn that we put aside our party labels and share friendships.

And so, the Republican Senator would like to reflect on the brilliant career of Senator BYRD. He has spent more than half of his life serving the people of West Virginia in the Congress. Six years in the House and 37 years in the Senate.

This year, he cast a record 14,000th vote; and just 3 weeks ago, on October 27, when the Senate set a 1-day record of 39 votes, it was Senator BYRD who offered the 35th amendment that broke the record.

But it is not just longevity that will provide Senator BYRD historical stature in the Senate. It is his record of service. He has served as majority whip as well as majority and minority leader. And he has served as President pro tempore and chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

What is even more remarkable is the Senator's in-depth scholarly knowledge of history. Our distinguished Republican leader, Senator DOLE, has often commented that students ought to receive college history credit simply by listening to the speeches of Senator BYRD.

Over a period of several years, Senator BYRD stood on the floor of the Senate and provided an oral history of this institution. These speeches ultimately were printed in two bound volumes and provide the best overview and understanding of the evolution of this 206 year old institution.

In 1993, Senator BYRD went to the floor on 14 separate occasions to speak on the history of the Roman Senate. These discourses were not designed solely for history students. Instead, they were intended to provide all of us with a perspective on the roots of American government and the extraordinary importance of maintaining unfettered congressional control over the power of the purpose.

On one occasion, Senator BYRD spoke for 6 hours on the floor and provided

the Senate a broad overview of the evolution of parliamentary government in England and how evolution influenced our Founding Fathers in shaping this Government.

Mr. President, I could go on and on about Senator BYRD's history lessons. But what I want to do is suggest that when future historians are writing about the 20th century Senate, Senator ROBERT BYRD will surely be remembered as one of the giants who followed in the footsteps of Henry Clay and Daniel Webster.

In particular, I believe Senator BYRD should be commended for his passionate defense of the rights of the minority in this body and to unlimited debate. Many Americans are often frustrated with the slowness of the pace of the Senate. But Senator BYRD rightly notes that in permitting unlimited debate, the Senate stands as a bulwark against tyranny and the passion of the moment.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Senator BYRD for his wisdom. I wish him a very happy birthday this coming Monday and my sincere regards to his lovely wife Erma.

ORDER FOR RECESS SUBJECT TO
THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senators STEVENS, EXON, WARNER, and CRAIG, the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Before the acting leader retires, I hope that we can agree to take off this 5-minute limitation on comment to be made at this time in morning business. It is my understanding that the time limit is 5 minutes for each Member; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct, at this point.

Mr. STEVENS. Well, I have a longer statement I would like to make concerning the defense bill and this hiatus of funds. I would like to ask that that time be extended somewhat.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, could I inquire, how long does the—

Mr. STEVENS. Ten minutes for each one would be sufficient, in my judgment.

Mr. LOTT. I modify my request and ask unanimous consent that each Senator would be given 10 minutes.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished acting leader.

THE FUNDING GAP

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have been researching today also what is

happening here with regard to this funding gap, as it is called in Government circles. I find there have been 15 such funding gaps in a 19-year period since 1977. One went 17 days. And I am becoming disturbed because of the two functions I perform here in the Senate. One is chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee with regard to the general civil service and Government employees, per se; and the other is pertaining to the Department of Defense.

At this time I want to speak primarily on the Department of Defense. If we are in session later today I do intend to speak about Government employees per se, because I think there is a strong feeling building here, for some reason, that those people who have been declared nonessential and are not reporting for work are somehow at fault in this, and they are not going to be paid when we finally reach a conclusion, which we must reach at some point.

But, Mr. President, I want to talk now about the Department of Defense bill because I had urged that bill be held up and not sent to the President because I did not want it caught in this current, very deep controversy. But it has now been sent to the President for his signature.

There is every indication the President will veto that bill, for several reasons. He, of course, has the prerogative to reach the conclusion that he has reached with regard to the funding levels in our defense bill. I am here right now to urge the Department of Defense to confer with the President and do their utmost to get this bill signed. As I noted during the debate here on the floor of the Senate on that bill, this is a bill that I think is of immediate concern to the Department of Defense and one that I believe the President must sign.

If he does not sign it, under the current hiatus in terms of this funding, we are going to be in real difficulty. Today 300,000 civilian employees in the Department of Defense have been furloughed. The Department of Defense depots, supply centers, training ranges, and people who are currently on route in personal moves have been stopped. They can no longer spend money.

Now, we have U.S. troops deployed abroad. I spoke at length on the floor the other night about that also. And 240,000 or more American citizens are deployed abroad as members of our armed services. They are in Macedonia, Haiti, Cuba, Southwest Asia, all over the world, and there are many afloat. We cannot afford any further interruption in defense fundings and programs if we are to maintain our responsibilities throughout the world as the world's last superpower.

I think this would be a sad time for Saddam Hussein or the North Koreans to misunderstand the will of the United States to provide the people and the material and money to fund the commitments we have made throughout the world.