

CHRISTOPHER F. PATTEN,
GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to say a thank you on behalf of myself and I feel a thank you as well on behalf of my 99 colleagues to his Excellency, Christopher F. Patten, the outgoing Governor of Hong Kong. Governor Patten has the particular distinction of being the last of 28 British Governors to preside over Hong Kong before this territory reverts back to the People's Republic of China on July 1—in just a few days.

Chris Patten, as those of us in this body have come to know him over the years, is a truly remarkable individual. He has been a superb administrator and an inspiration to the people who he has sought to govern in Hong Kong.

During his 5 years there, Chris Patten has watched the economy flourish under his stewardship. It grew by more than 30 percent in real terms over that period—a truly impressive performance. He has presided over a capable and honest civil service. Crime has fallen. The political situation has been stable and further democratized.

These are all important achievements, but, in my view, the most important legacy of the Patten administration is that it leaves behind the seeds of democracy firmly planted in the minds and hearts of the people of Hong Kong.

Thanks to Governor Patten and the people of Hong Kong, they were able to experience democracy firsthand by electing members of their local legislature, thereby making good on the British commitment to put in place a solidly based democratic administration.

Sadly, Mr. President, the Chinese have already made the decision to dismantle the elected legislature and to replace it with an appointed council, hand-picked by Beijing. That may work for the moment. In time we will know whether the "provisional legislature" installed by Beijing is only a temporary setback to democracy or the first step down a very dark, dark road, indeed. I hope it is not the latter.

Hopefully, Beijing will come to appreciate that it is virtually impossible to totally destroy democratic aspirations. As Governor Patten recently so eloquently put it, "You can dismantle institutions but you can't dismantle benchmarks. People now know what a fair election is like, and they will surely know what an unfair election is like if one takes place."

Many political leaders leave office, Mr. President, less than popular with those that they have governed, some deservedly so and others unfairly so, because they have had to make hard choices that only history will record kindly.

Not in the case of Chris Patten, in my view. Although few have had to make tougher decisions than he has, he leaves Hong Kong enormously popular, with 79 percent of the people of Hong Kong viewing him as having done a very good job, indeed.

On Monday, June 30, Governor Patten and his wife, Lavender, and his daughters, Kate, Laura, and Alice, will depart Hong Kong. I am confident that the people of that place will hold Chris Patten in their hearts for years and years to come. As one who considers him a personal friend, I would like to add my personal congratulations and thanks to him for all that he has endeavored to do, and I know that his many, many friends here in this body and the other and across this country, and particularly in Hong Kong, will not forget the challenges he has placed before the Government of the People's Republic of China.

(The remarks of Mr. DODD pertaining to the introduction of S. 983 and Senate Joint Resolution 34 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I thank the indulgence of my colleagues, Senator BYRD of West Virginia, Senator GRAHAM of Florida, and Senator BAUCUS of Montana, for their time here this afternoon. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the distinguished Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I note two other Senators on the floor who will be seeking recognition. May I ask, does either of them have to catch a plane?

Mr. BAUCUS. Yes.

Mr. BYRD. How soon?

Mr. BAUCUS. Tomorrow.

Mr. BYRD. I have to go somewhere tomorrow, too. I thought if the Senator wanted to catch a plane today, I would take my chair again.

Mr. BAUCUS. Thank you.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may use as much time as I may consume. I can assure my colleagues it will not be long, but I do not want to be interrupted in the midst of this speech.

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

CELEBRATING THE 4TH OF JULY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, last week I was proud to celebrate West Virginia Day, marking the 134th anniversary of the birth of my great State. Born in the midst of a terrible war, the mountain State still bears witness to that difficult four years of struggle, from Harper's Ferry to battle sites across her hills and farmlands. But she also still stands fast, and holds onto the traces of earlier history in her sturdy log barns and cabins and the winding rows of moss-covered stones bounding fields and cemeteries. Crumbling now, these long stone walls are losing their battles to the honeysuckle vines and the frosty upheavals of the centuries, but they remind us still of our forebears who settled this rugged and beautiful country and who bequeathed to us a legacy both tangible and intangible. For just as these early settlers left us these stacked stones, they also left us an even greater gift, a gift no one else

on Earth has ever truly shared—our American freedom and the remarkable form of government that keeps Americans free.

Next Friday, on the Fourth of July, we in the United States will celebrate the declaration of our freedom and the announcement of our intent to form a new government, not bound by happenstance of birth or caste, but one that gives each man an equal opportunity to rise above the circumstances of his own beginning and to make of his life whatever his ability and ambition would allow. The government that was painstakingly crafted in the years following this turning point in history combines the best of many forms of government, while avoiding their excesses. I never cease to wonder at our great and lasting fortune in having been blessed with a collection of Founding Fathers who were able to blend so many differing viewpoints and draft a Constitution that is so well thought out, and so finely balanced, that it has survived over the last two centuries with remarkably little change—remarkably little change. It demonstrates an ability to cooperate that has been in rather short supply around here in recent years.

The drafting of the American Constitution was the work of many minds. The Declaration of Independence, though conceived by a committee of five, was penned by a single versatile, very remarkable man. The group formed for this work was comprised of notables including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Thomas Jefferson, and Robert Livingston—whose namesake graces our Government today with his presence in the other body, Representative and chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in the House of Representatives, BOB LIVINGSTON. These were brave men to undertake what was then an act of treason against the British monarch, King George III. They decided unanimously to select Thomas Jefferson for the delicate job of putting into words the message they wanted to send to George III, and to the world. And of all the powerful and lyrical speeches that have ever been captured on the page, surely the grace, courage, and idealism of the Declaration of Independence ranks high. Thomas Jefferson's legacy to this Nation is a rich one, including the nucleus of our Library of Congress formed from his own collection after the destruction of the War of 1812, his contributions to the Continental Congress, and his service as President. But the soaring majesty of his words—beginning with "When in the course of human events * * *"—would stand alone as a monument to the man. Even as he lay dying at his mountaintop home in Monticello in 1826, Jefferson struggled to last until the fourth of July before succumbing to the call of the angels. John Adams, who died that same day—what a coincidence, what a coincidence—50 years after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, observed with his last breath that the