

harm by the Senate's delay and failure to do so.

The Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court pointedly declared in his 1997 Year End Report: "Vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice that traditionally has been associated with the federal judiciary." We have had hearings canceled by both the Second Circuit and the Ninth Circuit due to judicial vacancies. Must we wait for the administration of justice to fail before the Senate will act on the other 45 judicial nominees pending before us? I hope not.

In his most recent report on the judiciary the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court observed: "Some current nominees have been waiting a considerable time for a Senate Judiciary Committee vote or a final floor vote. The Senate confirmed only 17 judges in 1996 and 36 in 1997, well under the 101 judges it confirmed in 1994." He went on to note: "The Senate is surely under no obligation to confirm any particular nominee, but after the necessary time for inquiry it should vote him up or vote him down."

I hope that the Judiciary Committee and the Senate will proceed to consider and confirm judicial nominees more promptly and without the months of delay that now accompany so many nominations. I hope the Committee will not delay in scheduling the additional hearings we need to hold to consider the fine men and women whom the President has nominated to fill these important positions.

Mr. President, Howard Matz, I am glad to see, was confirmed. He was nominated last October, reported by the committee on April 2.

I thank the majority leader for bringing this up and getting it concluded. Senator BOXER of California showed enormous perseverance and determination in moving this forward. I commend her and her choice. I note that he was confirmed by unanimous vote, 85-0.

Victoria Roberts' nomination has been on the calendar 1 month, pending 11 months. Senator LEVIN has been very strongly supportive of her, and I believe that also was a unanimous confirmation. I commend the Senators involved, and I commend the majority leader.

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#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate returns to legislative session.

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

#### CHESTER TRENT LOTT III

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Romulus was the legendary first King of Rome. It was said that he went up to Heaven during a storm. Others have drawn the conclusion that it was during an eclipse of the Sun. In any case, it was a historic event.

When Joshua had his men march around the walls of Jericho, they blew their trumpets at a given signal and the walls came tumbling down. We are told in the Scriptures that it was a long day, a long day, a significant event, perhaps a scientific event, one about which there has been some debate.

I have been informed of a truly significant recent event. I wouldn't say that it is Earth shaking, but who knows? It could eventually be looked back upon as an earthshaking event.

Now, what is this all about? The Senator from Maryland, Mr. SARBANES, is watching and listening with great interest, and so are others. This event, I want to say in the RECORD and for all those who are watching through that electronic eye, this event was about the coming of Chester Trent Lott III, the first grandchild of our distinguished majority leader, and the baby came with the angels on last Saturday evening.

He weighed 7 pounds and 7 ounces—so, you see, those are mystic numbers, 7/7—7 pounds, 7 ounces. He was 19.5 inches in length. Now, these weights and measures are important. They were even important to the barons who forced King John on the meadow at Runnymede on June 15, 1215, to sign the great charter, the Magna Carta, which required that there be a system of weights and measures in the Kingdom. And our illustrious forebears who wrote the Constitution of the United States said that Congress would have the power to fix the standard of weights and measures.

So here to live by that system of weights and measures is a new man, a nova Homo sapiens named Chester Trent Lott III. That is a matter of great significance in the life of our leader.

I congratulate Senator LOTT on this most felicitous happening, this most felicitous occasion. Mr. President, there is nothing, may I say to the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, so wonderful as cradling in your arms—oh, many times I have done it—cradling in your arms a swaddled baby. It awakens in one such an amazing range of emotions. There is nothing like it. It is an experience sui generis—one of a kind. Upon the birth of one's own child, the tremendous joy and relief felt in meeting for the first time this tiny, new person is tempered by a measure of fear. You gaze down at this fragile baby and realize what an awesome responsibility you have assumed. Your baby is small, maybe 7 pounds 7 ounces—and there are smaller babies. They are all small and so fragile, so helpless, and so dependent upon

you for their survival. His skin is as soft as a butterfly's wing, his fingernails as translucent as scraps of rice paper; yet those minute, perfect little fingers grasp yours with such fierce determination! I can feel those little fingers closing around my fingers with such fierce determination—although that experience of having my own daughters do that is now 60 years gone. But the memory is fresh in my mind.

But to become a grandfather—now, that is a higher plateau. Mr. Leader, you are walking a higher plateau of immortality. It is not your first taste of mortality—that came with your son or daughter—but now a more inspiring, promising taste of immortality. To become a grandfather is a completely different experience. There is none of that fear, but all of the joy. That joy is heightened by a deep conviction—a deep conviction that "this is in my image" and in its grandmother's image, too. But it has my genes, it has my chromosomes, it is part of me. I can see it going on into the future and carrying on through life. ROBERT BYRD will never die, I would say. I can say that in more ways than one, but in this situation, my grandchild is part of me.

Tennyson said, "I am a part of all that I have met." But this was known before Tennyson. A grandfather, when he looks upon that child, can say with joy: "This is a part of me; it will never, never die."

That joy is heightened by a deep connection that you feel to the long continuum of countless generations, stretching all the way back from Adam and Eve to you and through you to your child, and now to your child's child. And you can feel the pull of the ancient echoes from the dim and distant past as your arms adjust to the weight of this little, new life in your arms. And you can see into the hazy unknown and murky distant future of continuing, endless generations, when this child of your child will have children who will carry a part of you and a part of everyone in this chain before you into the next century, and beyond.

There is a sense of connectedness and timelessness that allows you to understand your place in the long, slow march of generations that is as difficult to express as it is wonderful to experience.

That political treatise, *The Policraticus*, was written by John of Salisbury in the early part of the 12th century. It told of Prothaonius, who said it was glory enough for him that he had lived a life, of which his "grandson need not be ashamed." It was glory enough for him that he had lived a life of which his grandson need not be ashamed. We grandfathers should try to emulate Prothaonius.

Well, I offer my sincere congratulations to Senator LOTT and best wishes to his new grandson; and, of course, I congratulate Mrs. Lott, about her new grandson, and my wife joins me. I hope the duties of the "grandfather's office" will not prevent the Senator from Mississippi from spending many happy