

one of the three candidates I forwarded to President Bush.

On August 3, 2001, President Bush formally nominated Terrence O'Brien to the Tenth Circuit and the President's decision reaffirmed what I believed all along—that Judge O'Brien is an outstanding selection to fill Wyoming's seat on the court.

For 20 years, 1980–2000, Mr. O'Brien served with distinction as a State district court judge in Wyoming. During his tenure he earned tremendous respect from those who argued cases before him. I cannot imagine a finer individual who will join other notable Wyoming jurists on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, including; Wade Brorby, James E. Barrett, John Jay Hickey, and John C. Pickett, who by the way, was Wyoming's first judge to sit on the Court.

I also want to thank Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman LEAHY and fellow ranking Republican Senator HATCH for their work in reporting Mr. O'Brien's nomination. While our Federal judiciary current has 95 vacancies, today's confirmation of Terrence O'Brien is a step in the right direction. I look forward to the Senate's consideration of other article III U.S. Circuit and U.S. District Court judges.

If the mark that Terrence O'Brien left in Wyoming as a district court judge is any indication of his resolve and sharp judgment—our Nation can expect great things from a man who's appreciation and respect for the rule of law are without question. Without reservation, I know that Mr. O'Brien will serve with honor and distinction on the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table, and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate shall return to legislative session.

(Ms. STABENOW assumed the chair.)

Under the previous order, the Senator from Alaska is recognized.

THE ALASKA NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, before the distinguished visitor entered the Chamber, and before the vote and the statements were made by the Senators from Wyoming concerning their nominee, I was discussing problems in relation to the Alaska natural gas pipeline.

I think it is something on which the Senate ought to concentrate because we are clearly going to have to have a gas pipeline to bring to market the gas which was reinjected into the ground as Prudhoe Bay oil was produced. To bring that to market—50 to 70 trillion cubic feet of gas—we need a pipeline 3,000 miles long, gathering pipelines up to 1,500 miles long.

We are now in the position where there are only two steel mills in the world that are capable of delivering this steel pipe as it is designed.

Before the vote, I outlined the number of jobs that we have lost in the steel industry and the situation with the American steel industry. For this gas pipeline, we need 5.2 million tons of steel. We need \$3 to \$5 billion in steel orders. We cannot get that steel unless the U.S. steel industry gets back on its feet.

So for that reason, I started to think about how we could use some of the cashflow from the development of ANWR to start the process of the gas pipeline. As we examined that, we found the problem was not the steel industry as much as it was the rights of those who have been employed by the steel industry to have their medical care maintained. And that promise was a benefit that was agreed to many years ago for the contribution these workers had made to the military and civilian infrastructure of the country. It is, as I understand it, a potential lien against the steel industry as a whole.

We need to find some way to prevent these retirees from losing their health care coverage so that it will not be a lien against the assets of the steel industry as it tries to undergo consolidation now. The consolidation must be done if we are going to have the steel necessary to build the Alaska pipeline to bring our gas down to somewhere in the Midwest.

I was commencing to tell the Senate about two messages that I received today from a great friend whom I think is one of the most capable engineers in the oil and gas industry, particularly with regard to the pipelines and their design.

As I said, he told me there are only two steel mills in the world that are currently capable of delivering this pipe. He further told me that the pipe will require one-half of the world's capability to produce the pipe during the period of this order.

If the producers restart their work on this project this year, it would take until 2010 or 2011 for the gas to actually be delivered to our Midwest—9 years from now.

There is over 18 months of work required to complete the design so that it would be possible to order the pipe. For orders placed in 2003, the last pipe materials would be delivered to the field in 2007. That would enable the gas, if everything else goes well, to start being delivered in 2010, as I said.

Now, we have linked these issues together because of both the funding standpoint and the impact on national security and because of our absolute need for steel to build our gas pipeline.

Opening up the North Slope of Alaska to the drilling in what we call the 1002 area will bring a cash bid in 2003 and 2005. We propose to make some of that money available to initiate the process of rebuilding the industry and

taking the first steps to assure that the legacy fund of the steelworkers and the coal workers would be made whole.

Madam President, many people have argued with me about this. The House bill put money into the conservation account. An interesting thing about it is, if the amendment we have is defeated, the oil industry will not proceed, the steel industry will not proceed, the natural gas pipeline will not proceed, but not one of these radical environmentalists will lose their health care coverage. The American steel retirees are going to be the ones who pay the price in the long run.

I received a second message from my friend just before I came back to the Chamber, and that is that 30 percent of the pipeline materials will need to be delivered to the site by 2005, with the remainder to be delivered in 2007, as I said. I did not realize the steel chemistry for pipelines of this size has never been used. It will be what we call an X80-plus steel pipeline.

If the project proceeds in the first year, some of the pipe material needed to be manufactured will need to be tested for weldability and for fracture and burst analysis to assure the material chemistry in the pipe is correct. The timing and cost of all of this is critical to the pipeline project.

In addition to the pipeline pipe, there is a huge amount of normal steel materials required for compressor stations and the largest processing plant ever to be built.

The Alaska natural gas pipeline should be called the "Full Employment Project for 10 Years," maybe 15 years. It will require every person who is capable of working on such an endeavor in the United States and Canada for a period of over 8 years. It will not be built unless we realize the preliminaries must be completed before this pipeline can be built. It will bring down to what we call the South 48 the equivalent of a million barrels of oil a day, but it will be natural gas—high pressure gas pipeline, 52 inches in diameter, 1-inch thick.

I find it very interesting that as I talk about this subject, the commentators in the newspapers and whatnot say this is just a lot of baloney. These people are trying to link two subjects together. These are two subjects that have no individual answer. At the present time, we don't have 60 votes on the amendment to allow the drilling to commence in the 1002 area. We know that.

But the steelworkers and coal miners have no other cashflow either. They can't look for another source of money to meet their needs for at least 30 years. There are over 600,000 of them, and our proposal would start a cashflow from this new oil brought into our market. And it is money that is payable for the bidding process and from royalties on this oil that would help the steelworkers, the coal workers, and the industry to reconstruct itself.