

package be approved without a rollcall vote. That is no way to legislate. How would I feel facing my constituents and having to say: Well, it was getting close to Christmas and Members had other things they had to do; we did pass it; I wish now we would have had a rollcall vote but I wasn't there to object?

That is no way to be accountable to the American people. Taxpayers of this country rightly expect Senators to be accountable for funds drawn out of the Federal Treasury. It is your money. How many times have we heard that? I say to those who are looking at the Senate Chamber today through those electronic lenses: It is your money. How can Members be accountable when they are scattered to the four winds across the globe? What kind of perversion of the appropriations process would result in Senators approving this monstrosity without a recorded vote?

When Members took their oath of office, they pledged, standing right there at the Presiding Officer's desk with their hands on the Bible—"so help me God," they said—that they would support and defend the Constitution. So we have a responsibility to faithfully discharge the duties of the office of U.S. Senator. We took a pledge to do that. We took an oath to do that. We took an oath before God and man to do that. Senators did not pledge to do so just when it was convenient or when the schedule permits.

The House of Representatives saw fit to return to vote on this conference report. Why then could the Senate not do the same? We all get the same pay. Senators as well as House Members are paid to work for 12 months each year, not 10 months.

Chairman STEVENS and I worked with each Senator on the Appropriations Committee to produce 13 individual appropriations bills to send to the President. I have commended—and do so again—the senior Senator from Alaska for his effort, but the process was hijacked.

By whom? Who is doing the hijacking? The Bush White House. The White House hijacked the process. The process was hijacked by the White House and the Republican leadership in both Houses. Instead of sending 13 fiscally responsible appropriations bills to the President, the Senate was asked to close its eyes, plug its ears, and be gagged in order to rubberstamp a 1,182-page conference report combining 7 appropriations bills for 11 of the 15 Departments of the Federal Government, on an unrecorded approval of a unanimous consent request. No vote to it—no rollcall vote, no vote by division, no vote viva voce, no vote by voice, with only a handful of Senators. You could count the number of Senators in this Chamber on one hand this morning. This would be legislating without accountability.

What is the use of having elections if the voters are prevented from knowing how their Senators voted on investing

\$328 billion of the people's money, your money? This is wrong. The people have a right to know how their elected representatives stand on this legislation which will affect the lives of so many.

I am saddened by the majority leader's decision to postpone a vote on this legislation until January 20. This is no way to govern. We have had since April 11 to pass these seven bills. That is no way to serve the American people.

I thank the Chair, and I thank all Senators. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE BILL EMERSON

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I want to take a moment this morning to honor a dear friend of mine and a former colleague in the other Chamber, the late Congressman Bill Emerson of Missouri. On December 13, a new bridge spanning the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau in Missouri is being dedicated to Bill who represented the people of southern Missouri in the House of Representatives with dedication and integrity for 15 years before his untimely death in 1996.

I was privileged to meet, know, and work with Bill Emerson during my freshman year in Congress. He was an example of hard work, common sense, and the ability to put differences aside to get the job done. Bill and I shared a common constituency of rural Americans and served on the House Agriculture Committee together. Bill's spirit of uncompromising principle and his ability to lead under the most difficult circumstances are assets that I have endeavored to emulate.

Bill's commitment to his family was unparalleled. His wife Jo Ann succeeded him in his congressional seat, and he would be so proud of her today for the work she is doing. His daughters, Abby, Liz, Tory, and Katharine, were the lights of his life. I have come to know all four of them over the years, and he would, again, be so proud of them.

Jo Ann has carried on Bill's legacy of building bridges between people to promote communication, trade, and civic pride and is making a mark in her own right. This is something which I know would have brought Bill a great deal of satisfaction.

Bill Emerson's habit of bridging gaps between people is captured perfectly in the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge. This \$120 million structure replaces the bridge that was built 76 years ago. It will tie together the two States of Missouri and Illinois and promote trade and progress. It is a fitting monument

to a man who brought credit to his family, his community, his State, his country, and the Congress of the United States.

Bill Emerson was a dear friend. I miss him every day. What a fitting tribute to a great man and a great American.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, is the Senate still in morning business with a 10-minute limitation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). The Senator is correct.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as long as I must speak. I can assure the Chair it will not be over 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BYRD pertaining to the introduction of S. 1997 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BYRD. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING KOFI ANNAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very thoughtful article written by Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, entitled "Search For A New U.N. Role."

I commend the Secretary for his strong leadership over these years, and particularly for the courage he has shown as manifested by this op-ed piece, the courage he has shown to look to the future and to take such, what you might call, corrective measures or revisions as will further strengthen the United Nations as we, the body of nations, face a very perilous and uncertain world, a world filled with threats which really have little precedent in history and weapons that have little precedent in history.