

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators LEAHY, GRAHAM, and ALLEN be added as cosponsors to the bill.

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

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I yield all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill (S. 384) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 384

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF WORKING GROUP.**

Section 802(b)(1) of the Japanese Imperial Government Disclosure Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-567; 114 Stat. 2865) is amended by striking "4 years" and inserting "6 years".

**MORNING BUSINESS**

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

**TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR  
MICHAEL KERGIN**

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an individual who is a credit to his nation, his government, and the office in which he serves. He has earned the admiration and appreciation of his staff, the respect of his colleagues, and the friendship of many of us here in Washington. Sadly,

he is also a man whose current service in our Nation's Capital has come to an end, and he will soon be departing to return home. The man I am speaking of this morning is Canada's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Michael Kergin.

At the end of February, Ambassador Kergin will be returning to Canada after serving admirably here in Washington for the past 4-plus years. He assumed his position in October of 2000, just the 19th representative to the United States for our northern neighbor—our eastern neighbor for those of us in Alaska. His background prior to serving as Ambassador to the United States is impressive.

He was born in a Canadian military hospital in England. Ambassador Kergin joined the Canadian Department of External Affairs in 1967. He served in New York, Cameroon, and Chile. He was Ambassador to Cuba from 1986 to 1989. In 1998, Ambassador Kergin was asked by Prime Minister Jean Chretien to serve as his Foreign Policy Adviser as well as Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet for Foreign and Defense Policy—the equivalent of our National Security Adviser.

It is from this background that Ambassador Kergin drew when the terrorists attacked on September 11, 2001. If you were to ask the Ambassador about his most memorable activities while here in Washington, working with his U.S. counterparts to prevent further terrorist attacks would rank toward the top of that list—taking our border relations to the next level to fight terrorism by implementing the Smart Border Process to keep terrorists out while allowing for the legitimate flow of commerce and visitors between our nations.

It is appropriate to remember, as we are again considering comprehensive energy legislation, that Ambassador Kergin played a key role in the aftermath of the August 2003 blackout that hit the Northeast through the Canada-United States Power Outage Task Force, which was to improve our integrated electricity grid.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the Ambassador's work to develop natural gas pipelines from both Canada's MacKenzie Delta and Alaska's North Slope to meet our common energy needs.

Mr. President, many of my colleagues from the West are quick to point out the differences between Eastern and Western United States. Canada is much the same. And when you look at a map, it is readily apparent that the seats of government for both nations are very much in the East. So it was a pleasant surprise for me when I first met Ambassador Kergin to learn that he was from British Columbia. When Alaskans speak about fishing or timber or mining issues, he gets it. He understands the Alaskans' point of view.

I look forward to working with Ambassador Kergin's successor, but I will

also miss the good Ambassador's presence here in Washington, DC.

So I would like to say to him: Mr. Ambassador, thank you for your service in our Nation's Capital, and thank you for your willingness to work so closely with Congress and the American people to continue our strong relationship.

With that, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 15 minutes in morning business.

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

**GLOBAL WARMING**

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, today marks the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change. Following President Bush's decision to opt out of ratification of that treaty, enforcement of the Protocol fell onto Russian shoulders and was finally ratified by the Russian Federation late last year. Today it is a legally binding treaty.

The basic climate change problem is well understood. We have been told repeatedly in peer reviewed scientific assessments that increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases will lead to an increase in the average global temperature. The increasing temperature of the earth will lead to a large number of important changes to today's climate system. Through past emissions and projected emissions over coming years and decades we expect that the warming will accelerate unless the world alters its emissions path. Indications of warming are already evident in the global temperature record. Last year was the fourth-warmest year since temperature measurements began in the 19th century. The warmest year on record was 1998, followed by 2002 and 2003. Indications are also evident in the vast changes now underway in the Arctic and the bleaching of coral reefs around the world.

Over the years there have been many who have been skeptical of the science that has informed us of the climate change problem. But the mainstream of the scientific community, as evidenced by panels organized through the National Academy of Sciences, has been quite consistent in their views. Our doubling of the pre-industrial level of carbon dioxide has been a major factor in increased global average temperatures.

If human-induced global warming continues on its present path, the