from the bottom of our hearts, and we look forward to working with you. I know I certainly do.

HONORING RON BROWN AND TED WEISS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, when Senator BRADLEY spoke and he said he believed that this Senate would continue forward despite the fact that so many fine people on both sides of the aisle are leaving, it occurred to me that he is right, that the incredible strength of our democracy is the fact that we move forward. When there is a void to be filled, somehow, even though you think it never will be—and it may take more than one person to fill the void of one person's departure; it may take three, it may take four—I just hope that we will all read the comments of the Senator from New Jersey, because one point he made is that he tried to stay away from the meanness of it all that we sometimes face.

I hope in that spirit we will in fact pass two bills that were just objected to by the majority, one to rename a Federal building in New York after Ron Brown and one to rename a Federal building in New York for Ted Weiss. Both of these men served their country so well.

Ron Brown, as Secretary of Commerce, did so much in his lifetime to move forward the cause of economic justice and to bring prosperity to all the people of this country. He died serving just that cause, that human cause. He died in a tragic plane crash with some other quite wonderful people. It seems to me we ought to come together as Democrats and Republicans and make this tribute to him and to his family.

Ted Weiss, someone I served with for 10 years in the House of Representatives, the toughest fighter for health care for those who need it. The people of New York want to remember Ted this way. We ought to come together and make that possible.

THE OMNIBUS PARKS BILL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we ought to come together on this omnibus parks bill that is so important to 41 States. It seems to me that when the House sent us over a bill which passed virtually unanimously—I think it had four or five or six opposing votes—that was a statement that the controversial projects were dropped from the parks bill.

If Republicans and Democrats in the House could come together on a parks bill, my goodness, why cannot we bring it up here and get it done? The majority leader says he wants to get it done. I have no reason at all to doubt that. But I must say, Mr. President, that I understand the rules of the Senate. I know it is in his hands to bring this bill before the U.S. Senate. He has chosen not to do that. If he had brought this bill up like he did the FAA bill, we could have filed a cloture motion. Mr. President, I daresay we would have had 70, 80, maybe 90 votes in favor of bringing debate to a close and passing that parks bill.

How do I know this? Well, for one, I have spoken to most of my colleagues individually. I know that every single Democratic Senator is in favor of this bill, and I know that the vast majority of Republican Senators are in favor of this bill.

Forty-one States. Alabama has two important parks projects in the bill, a historic trail designation and funding for a historic black college. Alaska has 10 projects included in this bill. Arizona has four. Arkansas has two. California has 17. Colorado has nine. Florida has one. Georgia has two, Hawaii has one. Idaho has five. Illinois has two. Kansas has two, including the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, which is so important to the Senators from Kansas. Louisiana; Maryland; Massachusetts has four. Michigan has one; Mississippi two; Missouri one; Montana two; New Hampshire two; New Jersey two, and one of those is Sterling Forest, which is so important to make that land purchase.

New Mexico has five. I have spoken to both Senators from New Mexico, one a Democrat, one a Republican. They are most anxious to get this parks bill passed. New York has two projects. Ohio has one. Oklahoma has one. Oregon has eight. Pennsylvania has two; one each in Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas; four in Utah, including the Snowbasin exchange, the Sand Hollow exchange, the Zion Park exchange, and a ski fees proposal. Virginia three; Washington State has three. West Virginia has one. Wisconsin has one. Wyoming has three.

Then there are several others, including Martin Luther King Memorial; American battlefield protection, which is so key; Japanese-American Patriot Memorial, and some very important national park agreements.

Mr. President, no one could ever stand up here and say that this bill is perfect. I daresay no bill is perfect. It may only be perfect to the bill's author. But in this case, so many people worked on this bill. In many cases it took 2 years to get some of these provisions together.

Why am I so concerned? We have the Presidio in San Francisco, a former military base with an extraordinary history. We want to set up a nonprofit public trust corporation to ensure that this magnificent sight becomes a jewel in the National Park System. We know we can do it with this trust. If we do not have this trust, we are going to have to do everything we can to have vision to make this work. But we know, just as the Pennsylvania Avenue rehabilitation took a trust, that a trust would be able to really do this job for the Presidio.

We have other things in here for California that I worked on, bills that I wrote for Manzanar which would preserve the very dark history of the days where our Japanese-American friends were placed into camps, internment camps during World War II. We want to preserve the history because we learn from history.

This bill is strongly supported by everyone in the House and in the Senate. We have a very important provision in here for the Cleveland National Forest. So we have many things in our State.

But I truly am not here simply because of what is in this bill for California, although clearly it is very important to our State. This bill is an excellent bill. It came over from the House with tremendous bipartisan support. There is no reason why we should not be voting on this bill.

The majority leader knows the rules, knows if he had brought it up, we could have filed cloture, we could have had the vote, and we would have had the bill.

He has chosen instead to say, I want to do this by unanimous consent. Well, that runs a bit of a risk, Mr. President, because just one Senator, in even an anonymous fashion, could object to this entire package. I just, frankly, do not think that is fair. Too much work has gone in, too much sweat, too many tears, too many expectations, too much work to allow, it seems to me, one Senator to stop this bill.

Now, I am hopeful that we can get every single Republican to support this bill. As I say, as far as I know, the vast majority do. I just want to say to those who would consider objecting to this bill because something they wanted did not get in it, the beauty of the legislative process is that you live to fight another day.

Now, this year I have been most fortunate in being able to accomplish a lot of my agenda. I am most appreciative of everyone, both in my State and on the committees here, who helped me do that on both sides of the aisle. I am most fortunate. It has been very productive for me. If this goes down, this will be a harsh loss to me, but I can truly say we will fight again. Why should 41 States be deprived of this bill? We have the votes here to do it. We should have seen the bill brought up. We should have had our vote. This bill should be on the way to the President.

Now, it can still happen by unanimous consent, but if one Senator takes a position that he or she is going to say, ''I didn't get everything I wanted; I only got a few things for my State; I didn't get everything, therefore I am going to object,'' if one Senator does that, that is a harsh thing to do. I want to keep reminding the Senate about this. I know I will sound like a broken record, but that is a harsh thing to do.

For many years I have been working on an ocean sanctuary bill—started 14 years ago—to not allow the Federal waters off the coast of California to have additional oil drilling off that coast because of its dangers. I have a tremendous amount of support. Yet,

there are some who believe that the oil industry should have their rights to do this, no matter what the consequence, and have blocked me from doing it. Now, I could stamp my foot and say I will object to every single bill that comes through here unless I get my way.

Another area on the environment I am working on is to make sure children are protected so that when health and safety laws are written, we take into account the vulnerability of our children, of our pregnant women, of our fragile senior citizens.

Now, I could hold up every bill that comes up and say, I didn't get my way and I'm not going to let anything go through here by unanimous consent because I think children should be protected. Let me tell you, I will fight for the children, I will fight for their safety, and I will fight every day that I live, but I also understand in the U.S. Senate where people come with different viewpoints there is a time when you come together on a bill that may not have every single thing you want.

Mr. President, this is the moment, this is the time. We could have a unanimous consent request made right now to pass the bill that was passed in the House, no changes. We are going to live for another day. Yes, a few of us will not be here next year, but as Senator BRADLEY has said, a lot of us will be, and there will be new people and a new parks bill and there will be a new day. But this parks bill that has all of these important items in it, not the least of which is the Sterling Forest in New Jersey and so many other important parks, it is incredible to me that we cannot resolve this.

One of the things I have been trying to do along with some of my colleagues—the Senators from New Jersey have been helpful, the majority leader, the Democratic leader, the White House—we have been trying to see if there is some way, without adding anything to this bill—because it is very tenuous and it was sent over in a certain form and we should pass it—some way to take care of some noncontroversial issues that do not involve our forests and do not involve our wetlands and do not involve the kinds of things we must keep out of this bill. We are working on that.

We are working to give respect to every Senator so that every Senator knows there is another day and this administration has respect for those Senators who may not agree with everything in this bill. That is what we are trying to do, to show good faith and a recognition that not every Senator is happy.

Mr. President, since the majority leader has decided not to call this bill up and he has tied our hands and we cannot file a cloture motion and we cannot vote on this, and we are losing time—if he insists on that particular procedure, which is his call to make, no one else could make the call for him, since the majority leader has set his course and has said, ''I want a parks bill, but I am not bringing the bill up, but we will do this by unanimous consent,'' if that is the case, then let us come together in the spirit of the closing days of this Congress, in the spirit of the extraordinary Senators who are leaving this U.S. Senate who have fought hard, very hard, for items in this bill, whether it is Senator BRADLEY, Senator KASSEBAUM, just to name a couple, let us come together and without a problem pass this bill and not come to the floor saying, ''Well, we want to add more things to this bill.''

Yes, we are ending this Congress, but we are coming back in January. We can do many of the things, especially if there is good will and we are not taking up very controversial matters that have been, yes, purposely kept out of this package. We cannot put them back in this package. It is not going to fly. Not everybody got what they want in this package. Not everybody will be thrilled with this package.

As I stand here in the waning hours of this Congress, we have an opportunity to leave here with a parks bill that has not included controversial provisions in it, that will not include controversial provisions in it, but reaches out into this country, into rural areas, urban areas, into the most beautiful parts of this country, into those parts of this country where the beautiful parts are diminishing, and we must reserve them. We can leave this Congress and feel so good that we reached across party lines and passed this bill. If they can do it in the House with a few dissenting votes, we should be able to do it in this U.S. Senate.

I intend to keep the Senate apprised of this issue as often as I have updates.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ALAN SIMPSON: A SENATE STALWART

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I want to pay special tribute to the outstanding career of the senior Senator from Wyoming, ALAN SIMPSON.

Over the past 18 years, I have had the privilege of working with Senator SIMPSON in many different roles. His wit is unequaled. His passion for public life is inspiring. His commitment to the causes in which he believes—often regardless of their political implications—is unshakable.

Of course, during our shared 18 years in Congress, ALAN SIMPSON and I have sometimes disagreed. Neither of us has ever shied away from a healthy debate, so some of those disagreements have been relatively spirited. But I have always respected his skill and determination, and I have always considered him a friend.

Senator SIMPSON has won many legislative battles. He's also lost a few. But he has never allowed the odds against victory to discourage him from a battle he believed to be worth fighting, and he has never lost his sense of humor.

Senator SIMPSON's special blend of humor and policy interests is exemplified in the book he is about to publish: ''Right in the Old Gazoo: Observations From a Lifetime of Scrapping With the Press.''

ALAN SIMPSON was born in Cody, WY, to a family with a long tradition of public service. His grandfather, William, was a successful and respected attorney. His father, Mildred, was elected Governor and later served Wyoming in the U.S. Senate.

ALAN followed that tradition well. In 1958, he graduated from the University of Wyoming Law School. In 1966, he was elected to the Wyoming State Legislature, and, in 1978, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he will long be remembered as one of the most influential and effective Senators in Wyoming history.

After 30 years of public service, Senator SIMPSON will be remembered by many for countless different reasons. Some will remember his legislative accomplishments. Some will remember the eloquence of his words or the unique nature of his wit. Others will remember his friendship and the love that he and his wife, Ann, share for their family.

I will remember ALAN SIMPSON for all of those things. The Senate will be a very different place without him, but I am confident that his influence on national affairs will continue through his next challenge as a visiting professor at Harvard. Senator SIMPSON will assume the Lombard Chair at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. We know he will bring all of the talents he brought to this body as Senator to that responsibility as well. And all of those who are going to share the good fortune of having the opportunity to listen to him, to experience his wit, to experience his intellect, to experience his great vision about this country and the way he sees it today, will clearly be the beneficiaries. Linda and I wish him and Ann the very best.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. FRAHM. Mr. President, we are in morning business. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mrs. FRAHM. Mr. President, I request up to 10 minutes.