

Senate floor under President Obama. It is a bad way to do business. By rolling all those things together, you don't have the scrutiny, the oversight or the understanding of where the money is going, and the tendency to push spending beyond your limits actually becomes a reality. I am one who subscribes to the fact that we have to change the way we do business. We have to make hard decisions. We have to execute some tough love. We have to have some shared sacrifice, and we to have to do it quickly.

Time has run out on the American Government and our American budget process without substantial reform, which is why it would be a tragic mistake for us sometime this week or this weekend to pass an Omnibus appropriations bill.

There is an underlying reason why I don't support that, and it is because I think a short-term CR makes a lot more sense. A short-term CR will put the Senate in the position of debating the rest of next year's spending or this fiscal year's spending under the cloud of the debt ceiling which is going to confront us in April or May or maybe as soon as the middle of March. If we pass a CR or an omnibus that goes beyond that date to the end of next year, September 30, we have no leverage to address the subject of raising the debt ceiling. It is time we stopped borrowing to spend more money we do not have.

I come at a time when I know the pending business is the START treaty, which I will address on another occasion, but to point out why I am so deeply disappointed that we are rushing to judgment on an Omnibus appropriations spending bill at a time when the American people want us focusing on spending, on the deficit, and on improving the way we do business.

I will vote against an Omnibus appropriations bill. I will vote against cloture on the bill. I will support a short-term CR. That is the best way for us to set up an occasion next year where we address our priorities in the right order and at the right time.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

ARLEN SPECTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if you asked anyone in this body to summarize ARLEN SPECTER, I think the words that would come up most often would be he is a real fighter. ARLEN SPECTER fought to defend our Nation in Korea. He fought crime in the streets of Phila-

delphia as a district attorney. He has fought cancer and won three times. And he has fought for Pennsylvania every day he has served with us here in the U.S. Senate.

Senator SPECTER has witnessed three decades of progress in Washington. He is a man who has risen above party lines to demonstrate his independence time after time. But his independence was not about him; it was about the people of Pennsylvania, whom he has served with honor and dignity for 30 years, even when cancer tried to keep him from doing so.

I have known and served with Senator SPECTER for almost 30 years, and I have come to admire his service and dedication. We have not always agreed on how to solve the issues facing America, but he has always been willing to listen to me and any other Senator in the hopes of forging bipartisan agreements that would help the country. He is a very principled man, a man who does what he believes is right, even when few others agree with him.

Senator SPECTER was raised in the Midwest by his mother and a Russian immigrant father who came to the United States and later served his new country in World War I.

He first discovered Pennsylvania as an undergraduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a degree in international relations. After serving 3 years in the Air Force during the Korean war, he attended law school at Yale and established a successful law practice in what would become his home State, Pennsylvania.

Just as his father left his native land and served his new home as a member of the United States military, Senator SPECTER left his home in Kansas and served his adopted Commonwealth in a different way—first as a district attorney in Philadelphia for 9 years, and then as a U.S. Senator for the last 30 years. And he did this with his tenacity. He lost a number of elections. He kept coming back, never giving up.

As a Member of Congress, he has been a stalwart for justice, health, and education. He has presided over several Supreme Court confirmation hearings, and played a major role in many more.

He has ensured that vital and potentially lifesaving research for cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other diseases receives Federal dollars to pave the way for real breakthroughs.

One personal experience with Senator SPECTER—the so-called economic recovery package, the stimulus. He was the key vote—one of the three key votes. He was a Republican. He and the two Senators from Maine made it possible to pass that. But his passion in that legislation was the National Institutes of Health. Part of the deal was that they had to get \$10 billion. Money well spent. But it is something he believed in fervently, and we were able to do that.

He has also worked to cover children and seniors who struggle to get access

to health care they desperately need. He has done that as a member of the Appropriations Committee, where he has worked to make more education available to all students with the help of scholarships and student loans. Furthermore, his work with constituents of every stripe makes a difference every day.

Senator SPECTER is a throwback to a previous chapter in the history of the Senate—a time when moderates were the rule, not the exception.

When I came to Washington, Republicans such as ARLEN SPECTER were every place. That is not the case now. He is a rare breed and will truly be missed.

I wish Senator SPECTER, his wife Joan, and their two sons and four grandchildren the very best in the coming weeks, months, and years.

BLANCHE LINCOLN

Mr. President, Arkansas has given America a lot of which to be proud. From the late Senator William Fulbright, whom I did not know, to President Clinton, whom I do know, Arkansans have always produced proud public servants.

I had the good fortune to serve with two of the finest Senators we have ever had in this body, Dale Bumpers and David Pryor. I have said publicly—I will say again—the finest legislator I have ever served with—I do not want to hurt anyone's feelings here—is David Pryor. David Pryor was a superb representative of Arkansas and the country.

BLANCHE LINCOLN has continued that long tradition of Arkansans who have come to Washington to shape our Nation. And BLANCHE has never forgotten from where she came.

Senator LINCOLN has been a trailblazer during her time in the Senate. In 1998, she became the youngest woman to ever be elected to the Senate. She was also the first woman elected to represent Arkansas in the Senate since World War II. She was the first woman and first from Arkansas to chair the Senate Agriculture Committee.

A dozen years ago, BLANCHE was one of the youngest people in this body. But from day one, she earned a reputation for being very wise, wise beyond her years. She has always understood we are here to serve, first and foremost, and she has never forgotten that.

Senator LINCOLN once said:

I am not normally a betting person, but I say that putting your money on the American people is about as close to a sure bet as you are going to get.

BLANCHE LINCOLN always bet on the American people, and particularly the good people in Arkansas who first sent her to Washington to get things done in 1992.

Senator LINCOLN never sought the national spotlight. She has always been focused on making sure the people of Arkansas are represented fairly and forcefully. Her legislative accomplishments are too long to list here today.

Her impact will be felt long after she leaves this Chamber.

Perhaps her most important work has been her tireless efforts to protect America's children. Senator LINCOLN was the lead driving force, along with the First Lady, on the passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act to make sure our children have access to healthy meals.

She was a cofounder of the Senate Caucus on Missing, Exploited, and Run-away Children. She is also the current chair of the bipartisan Senate Hunger Caucus.

So I am honored to call Senator LINCOLN a friend and a colleague, and I join my friends and colleagues in saluting her remarkable accomplishments. I will miss her. But we know her too well to think we have heard the last from her.

It would not be appropriate not to say something about her wonderful family. Her doctor husband and her twins are remarkably good individuals. Her husband is one of the nicest people I have ever met. He has such a great presence about him. I have met him on the many occasions we have been able to get together as a Senate family, and he certainly, to me, is part of that family.

But if I ever need to find Senator LINCOLN, I will always know where to look. Because if there is an issue that has gone unnoticed or a person who feels forgotten or a cause that is worth fighting, BLANCHE LINCOLN is probably not far behind and already on the case.

I wish Blanche and her family the very, very best. It has been a pleasure to get to know BLANCHE LINCOLN. I look forward to our future association.

RUSS FEINGOLD

Mr. President, I have served with RUSS FEINGOLD in the Senate for 18 years. There has never been a point where I did not know where he stood and what his core principles were.

Senator RUSS FEINGOLD came to the body in 1992 with one goal in mind: To always represent the people of Wisconsin—not the special interests, not the establishment. And he never compromised his principles, even though sometimes it made it very difficult for me. But he is a man of principle, and that certainly is the truth.

When RUSS first ran for the Senate in 1992, he famously wrote down five core promises he would always keep if he were elected. He wrote them on a piece of paper, and then he affixed this piece of paper and these promises to his garage door at his home.

The promises were: To rely on Wisconsin citizens for most of his contributions; to live in Middleton, WI, and send his children to school there; to accept no pay raise during his time in office; to hold listening sessions in each of the 72 Wisconsin counties each year of his term in the Senate; and to make sure that the majority of his staff are from Wisconsin and with a Wisconsin background.

It should surprise no one that he held true to each of these promises and sur-

passed every expectation that any Badger could have had for this good man who hails from Janesville, WI.

As quick as Senator FEINGOLD has been to voice thoughtful opposition to anything that would go against his core principles, he never hesitated to reach across the aisle and work in good faith with every Member of this body.

Because of his bipartisan efforts, our system for financing political campaigns is cleaner, more transparent, and more free of undue corporate influence. It is too bad the Supreme Court has so weakened the McCain-Feingold legislation.

In 2002, Senator FEINGOLD spoke on the Senate floor during the campaign finance debate, and he spoke remarkable words about why he fought so hard for that legislation. He said:

Nothing has bothered me more in my public career than the thought that young people looking to the future might think that it is necessary to be a multimillionaire or somehow have access to the soft money system in order to participate, to participate as a candidate as part of the American dream.

It is a simple statement, but it truly helps us understand why the people of Wisconsin were always proud of their junior Senator—because he spoke simple truths, fought passionately for the middle class, and was able to always tap into what people were discussing over their kitchen tables every night.

RUSS FEINGOLD often stood in the minority to voice his positions that were not necessarily popular. He was a strong advocate for equal rights for same-sex couples even when it wasn't the popular thing to do, and he opposed the 2003 Iraq war from the very beginning and has stayed true to his feelings on this issue since then. But that is the very essence of RUSS FEINGOLD. He stands on principle and his core beliefs even when it isn't convenient. He speaks the truth even when it ruffles feathers. As someone who has been elected to public office for a long time, it is very difficult to express to everyone within the sound of my voice what a special type of person RUSS FEINGOLD is. He is the type of person who will remain firm and steadfast in all the ways he serves. He is that special kind of person.

He has continued the tradition of some of the greatest Members of this body. He combines the tenacity of Paul Wellstone with Ted Kennedy's desire to always fight for the underdog. RUSS FEINGOLD has etched himself into the fabric of this body and for many of us will always be a part of our collective conscience. If we follow the example of Russ Feingold, we can rest easy at night knowing that when we stand on principle, we never have to worry about second-guessing ourselves.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BRADLEY TURNER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the work of an unsung hero, COL Bradley Turner of

Booneville, KY. After a 37-year career serving in our Nation's military, Colonel Turner recently retired on September 24 of this year.

Over that nearly four-decade span, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Army, and the Kentucky Army National Guard. Before earning the rank of colonel, Bradley was a sergeant in the Marines, a captain in the Army, and a lieutenant colonel while in the Guard. In 1991, he was deployed in Operation Desert Storm with the 623rd Field Artillery from Glasgow, KY.

Throughout his career he earned many medals, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal, among others. His dedication in serving our country has truly been a blessing to our Commonwealth and our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Bradley Turner for his service. The Booneville Sentinel recently published a story about Colonel Turner and his accomplishments. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD following these remarks.

There being no objection the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Booneville Sentinel, Dec. 8, 2010]

COLONEL BRADLEY TURNER RETIRES AFTER 37-YEAR CAREER

Colonel Bradley Turner of Booneville has retired from the U.S. Army Reserve after a 37-year career. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1973 and served 4 years, attaining the rank of sergeant. After leaving the Marine Corps he attended Lees College and Morehead State University where he graduated with a bachelor of science degree. While in college he attended ROTC and was commissioned in 1981 in the U.S. Army. He served 4 years on active duty, attaining the rank of captain. After leaving active duty, he joined the Kentucky Army National Guard. During his service in the Guard he served as a battery commander, battalion and brigade operations officer, and battalion and brigade executive officer. In 1991 he was deployed to Operation Desert Storm with the 623rd Field Artillery from Glasgow, Kentucky. He was mobilized again in 2003 with the 138th Field Artillery Brigade from Lexington, Kentucky.

While in the Guard he graduated from the U.S. Army War College with a master's degree in strategic studies, and he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. He then transferred to the 100th Training Division, U.S. Army Reserve where he was the battalion commander of the 10th Battalion of the 100th Division in Lexington, and later a principal staff officer at the division headquarters in Louisville. While at the division headquarters he attained the rank of colonel.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Campaign Medal, and the Liberation of Kuwait Medal. He is married to Debra Combs Turner and they have three children, Tangee Young of Ricetown, Brandi Thompson of Vancleve, and Jeremy Turner of Booneville. They have 4 grandchildren. They reside in east Booneville, and he is an employee of the Lee Adjustment Center in Beattyville. Colonel Turner retired effective September 24, 2010, at the 100th Division in Louisville, Kentucky.