

"experience"—and BENNETT JOHNSTON is that man of whom I speak.

There is no department of public life in which the test of man's ability is more severe than service in this body. Little deference is paid to reputation previously acquired or to eminent performances won elsewhere. What a man accomplishes in this Chamber, he does so by sheer force of his own character and ability. It is here that one must be prepared to answer for the many talents or for the single talent committed to his charge.

BENNETT JOHNSTON came to this body 22 years ago as a man of many talents. He did not wrap his talents in a napkin or hide them in the earth, as both Luke the Physician and Matthew make reference, but he put them to use that they might bear increase for his State, for his country, for the Senate, and for his fellow man. He has proved himself to be a superior legislator. I have served with him these 22 years on the Committee on Appropriations. He has proved himself to be a man with courage, with vision, with conviction, a man who is diligent in his work and faithful to his oath of office.

As the chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations during the last 6 years, I found him always to be conscientious and a man of his word. Fully aware of the admonition by Polonius that "those friends thou hast and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel," it is with pride that I call BENNETT JOHNSTON friend. It is with sincere sadness that I have heard of his decision and I regret that, with the passing of these final 2 years of his term, the Senate will have witnessed the departure of one who has effectively toiled here in its vineyards and who has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues. The people of the State of Louisiana chose well when, by the exercise of their franchise, they sent him here. Someone will be selected to take his place, just as someone will, in due time, stand in the place of each of us here.

After he lays down the mantle of service, we shall feel the same revolution of the seasons, and the same Sun and Moon will guide the course of our year. The same azure vault, bespangled with stars, will be everywhere spread over our heads. But I shall miss him, just as I know others will miss BENNETT JOHNSTON. Other opportunities will come to him, other horizons will stretch out before him, and he will sail his ship on other seas.

Erma and I will miss BENNETT and Mary, but the memories of these past years during which we have been blessed to render service together to the Nation will always linger in our hearts.

I think of lines by Longfellow as being appropriate for this occasion:

I shot an arrow into the air;  
It fell to earth I knew not where,  
For so swiftly it flew, the sight  
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air;  
It came to earth, I knew not where,  
For who has sight so swift, so strong  
That it can follow the flight of song?  
Long, long afterwards, in an oak,  
I found the arrow still unbroke,  
And the song, from beginning to end,  
I found again in the heart of a friend.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, anyone even remotely familiar with the U.S. Constitution knows that no President can spend a dime of Federal tax money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by Congress—both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

So when you hear a politician or an editor or a commentator declare that "Reagan ran up the Federal debt" or that "Bush ran it up," bear in mind that it was, and is, the constitutional duty and responsibility of Congress to control Federal spending. Congress has failed miserably in that task for about 50 years.

The fiscal irresponsibility of Congress has created a Federal debt which stood at \$4,798,792,100,063.36 as of the close of business Tuesday, January 10. Averaged out, every man, woman, and child in America owes a share of this massive debt, and that per capita share is \$18,216.30.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

#### CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 2, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2) to make certain laws applicable to the legislative branch of the Federal Government.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] is recognized to offer an amendment, in which there will be 20 minutes under the control of the Senator from New Jersey and 5 minutes under the control of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY].

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 15

(Purpose: To reduce the pay of Members of Congress by the same percentage as other spending is reduced in any sequester caused by the failure of Congress to meet budget limitations on spending, or the budget deficit)

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] proposes an amendment numbered 15.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill insert the following new section:

#### SEC. . REDUCTION OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN EVENT OF SEQUESTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601(a) of the Legislation Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking out "as adjusted by paragraph (2)" and inserting in lieu thereof "as adjusted by paragraphs (2) and (3)"; and

(2) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"(3)(A) The annual rate of pay for each position described under paragraph (1) shall be reduced (for the period beginning on the effective date under subparagraph (B)(i)(I) through the end of the fiscal year in which such adjustment takes effect) by the percentage necessary to reduce the total annual pay for such position by the uniform percentage determined under—

"(i) section 251(a)(2) of the Balanced Budget Emergency Deficit Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(2)) in any fiscal year in which there is a sequester under section 251 of such Act;

"(ii) section 252(c)(1)(C) of the Balanced Budget Emergency Deficit Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902(c)(1)(C)) in any fiscal year in which there is a sequester under section 252 of such Act; and

"(iii) section 253(e) of the Balanced Budget Emergency Deficit Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 903(e)) in any fiscal year in which there is a sequester under section 253 of such Act.

"(B)(i)(I) An adjustment under subparagraph (A) shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after the date on which an intervening election of the Congress occurs following the sequester.

"(II) Effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after October 1 of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which an adjustment to effect under subclause (I), the rate of pay for each position described under paragraph (1) shall be the rate of pay which would be in effect if not for the provisions of this paragraph.

"(ii) If more than one adjustment would take effect on the same date in accordance with clause (i)(I), each applicable percentage determined under subparagraph (A) (i), (ii), and (iii) shall be added, and the resulting percentage shall be used in making a single adjustment."

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives may prescribe regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act relating to the applicable Members of Congress.