

take us through at least next Tuesday. If that develops—and it may be later on today—I would have to check and see if there would be a request for a rollcall vote on either side. If not, we might be able to advise our colleagues within the next hour as to what the program will be.

It is also my hope that on the defense authorization bill, even though the House does not take up the conference report until 4 o'clock, we might reach some time agreement on that bill to permit us to start debate earlier than 5 p.m.—in fact, early afternoon—and we can debate it on Monday and have that vote sometime around 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning.

So what I am suggesting is that if everybody wants to cooperate, we may be able to work it out so there might not be any votes for the balance of the day or on Monday, and a vote will occur on Tuesday at around 11. But I cannot make that statement definitely at this time.

So that is what we are working on. If my colleagues have ideas or objections or suggestions, I hope they will be in touch with me or staff between now and, say, 12:15.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I shall speak longer than 5 minutes, but I do not think I will be longer than 10 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as long as I require.

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

#### DR. RICHARD C. HALVERSON

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, declared, "The world is my parish." In a like fashion, Dr. Richard Halverson might have declared that the Senate side of the United States Capitol, the city of Washington, DC, and the United States of America were his parish.

No one who ever passed Dr. Halverson in the hallways or in the streets of this Federal community had any reason to doubt that Dr. Richard Halverson was a man in whom the Light of God's Love shone brightly. From the men and women who clean our offices at night to the men and women who prepare the meals in our dining rooms and cafeterias, to the men and women who deliver the mail throughout the office complexes, to the men and women who police the streets of Capitol Hill, to the men and women who serve in the offices of Senators and on the elevators and in committee staffs to the men and women who sit on the Floor of the United States Senate as

elected officials of the fifty sovereign States, no one was beyond Dr. Halverson's love, his ministry, and his care. If one followed Dr. Halverson throughout his daily routine, one would not find a man more possessed by, as well as animated by, the Capitol Spirit of the Living God. I have met few men in any ordained order of the clergy or any denomination, who fit the phrase "Men of God" so well as did Dr. Halverson.

Dr. Richard Halverson was a man of plain speech and honest demeanor. His eloquence was often in his simplicity. No problem brought to him by one of us or by anyone on Capitol Hill was too small for his attention or too menial to call forth from him a prayer or a blessing. Having come from a major Washington parish—The Fourth Presbyterian Church on River Road—a church numbering among its members thousands—Dr. Halverson, on assuming the chaplaincy of the U.S. Senate, shouldered his duties without missing a beat. During his years of service among us, he was in much demand nationwide to share his spiritual maturity and the depth of his insights with thousands upon thousands of people in conferences across our country. In spite of the demand upon his time, however, Dr. Richard Halverson never neglected his primary duty here in the United States Senate. Working as one man among ordinary men and women—the men and women elected to the high position of United States Senator, Dr. Halverson seemed to grasp instinctively our needs as human beings first and our needs as Senators second. In all of the years of his service here, Dr. Halverson sowed seeds of faith, and kindness, and love that will continue to bear fruit in all of our lives, and in the life of this institution long after all of us have departed its halls.

I am particularly grateful to Dr. Halverson for the pastoral care that he lent to me personally during the ordeal of the loss of my beloved grandson in a truck accident. And I remember with thankfulness his ministry to my wife during her seasons of illness and debility. And I shall never forget the witness that Dr. Halverson shared with me of his own faith as he and I opened our hearts to one another and searched the deeper things of life in sometimes casual conversations or in moments of profound insight. If ever there were a model of the "Priesthood of all Believers," Dr. Halverson was a priest of that order of "Melchisedec" spoken of in the Holy Scriptures. Dr. Halverson had the enviable ability to share his faith in God as one might recommend to another his Best Friend. For Richard Halverson, God was no abstraction, but the first reality of waking in the morning, traveling forth into the world by day and returning home at night to his slumber.

I saw the sun sink in the golden west;  
No angry cloud obscured its latest ray.  
Around the couch on which it sank to rest  
Shone all the splendor of a summer day.

And long, though lost to view, that radiant light,  
Reflected from the sky, delayed the night.

Thus, when a good man's life comes to a close,

No doubts arise to cloud his soul with gloom,  
But faith triumphant on each feature glows,  
And benedictions fill the sacred room.  
And long do men his virtues wide proclaim,  
While generations rise to bless his name.

I have no doubt that Dr. Halverson has indeed now gone to his reward in that Eternity for which each of us yearns in his heart of hearts. Death can be no victor over the life of a man like Richard Halverson—a man whose daily walk and whose wisdom were rooted in the Eternal Word of God. Indeed, as Jesus said, when he saw Nathanael coming to him, we might also say of Dr. Richard Halverson, "Behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile."

My wife and I extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Halverson and to the family of Dr. Halverson. He was not slick; he was not even particularly polished, perhaps, but neither was the Jesus Christ whom he served. This was not just a vocation, it was an avocation, and what you saw was what you got.

As I said to his son after Dr. Halverson's passing, I have no doubt—and I had no doubt that Dr. Halverson knew—of his son's grief. I felt that way when my own foster father passed from this earthly life. I felt that way when my grandson was taken at the age of 17. I felt that his spirit still lived, and that he knew of my grief.

Dr. Halverson knows today of his family's grief. They can take solace in the promise that he still lives, and that they can one day be reunited with him.

#### ROSE STILL GROWS BEYOND THE WALL

Near a shady wall a rose once grew,  
Budded and blossomed in God's free light,  
Watered and fed by morning dew,  
Shedding its sweetness day and night.  
As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,  
Slowly rising to loftier height,  
It came to a crevice in the wall,  
Through which there shone a beam of light.

Onward it crept with added strength,  
With never a thought of fear or pride.  
It followed the light through the crevice's length

And unfolded itself on the other side.  
The light, the dew, the broadening view  
Were found the same as they were before;  
And it lost itself in beauties new,  
Spreading its fragrance more and more.

Shall claim of death cause us to grieve,  
and Make our courage faint or fall?

Nay! Let us faith and hope receive:  
The rose still grows beyond the wall.

Scattering fragrance far and wide,  
Just as it did in days of yore,  
Just as it did on the other side,  
Just as it will forevermore.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.  
Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

#### SENATOR BYRD'S STATEMENT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I think we all are grateful and thankful for the

eloquent remembrance by the Senator from West Virginia.

I am sorry that I did not have the opportunity to know Dr. Halverson and was not a participant in the prayer breakfasts. I attended his service this week. The Senator from West Virginia certainly does him great honor, and we appreciate it.

Mr. LAUTENBERG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

#### THE REFUGEE PROGRAM

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, yesterday my good friend and colleague from Wyoming, Senator SIMPSON, made some comments, and particularly made reference to the so-called Lautenberg refugee program. Though Senator SIMPSON and I agree on some things and disagree sharply on some things, there is, on balance, mutual respect and I might even say affection. So where we disagree on this issue, it is because of a perspective on the issue.

However, during his presentation on the floor, he used references such as the so-called Lautenberg refugee bill. He used adjectives like derelict or deficient, that this bill was no longer of any value, and I just would like to clear the record.

Current law, under our immigration code, facilitates the granting of refugee status for certain historically persecuted groups. The existing law formally recognizes the historic experiences of certain persecuted religious minorities in the Soviet Union and Indochina, and the pattern of our denial of refugee status to members of those minorities entitles them to a relaxed standard of proof in determinations about whether they are refugees. The law lowers the evidentiary standard required to qualify for refugee status for Evangelical Christians, for Jews from the Soviet Union, certain Ukrainians, and some categories of Indo-Chinese.

Once a refugee applicant proves that he or she is a member of one of these groups, he or she has to prove a credible basis for concern about the possibility of persecution. Refugee applicants normally must establish a well-founded fear of persecution. The law has had a real and positive impact on refugee adjudication for persecuted individuals.

In his comments to the Senate yesterday, Senator SIMPSON said that there is evidence that members of the Russian mafia are using the program to enter the United States. I want to be perfectly clear that the refugee program was not intended to enable criminals to enter our country. It was not designed to facilitate entry into the United States by those not qualified under the description of refugee status.

Further, Mr. President, in my former life I was in the computer business and still have a lot of contact there. I have seen many of these people who have come, under the refugee exclusion, into

the design and programming phases of the computer industry, many of them entrepreneurs. I have met those who, in a very short period of time, have learned enough of the English language to practice law and become physicians. So we dare not accept one generalization that those who are using the program are principally members of the Russian mafia, that the gangsters are using this, because if they are, then it is not the fault of those who are coming.

It is my understanding that under United States law an applicant should be denied refugee status if our Government knows that he is a criminal, or for some reason or other is excluded from entry into the United States. So where does the responsibility lie? It lies with the INS or the State Department. They have to do a better job in weeding those people out based on current law.

The refugee program was intended to help historically persecuted religious minorities, certainly not criminals.

My friend, the Senator from Wyoming, also said the program is no longer necessary because we have good relations with Russia and that the program has been abused. As a matter of fact, I was stunned when I heard the Senator from Wyoming describe Russia as our best friend. I would say that is hyperbolic at least. Russia, our best friend? We want them to be a good friend, we want them to be an ally, but certainly one cannot say that they are now our best friend and that they are behaving like a democracy as we know it. And although he describes the program as being discredited, the fact is that it has served as a useful opportunity for those who are very concerned about what is going to happen and what has taken place in terms of their relationship with Russia and the former Soviet Union countries.

There is still a tremendous amount of instability in that area, and although anti-Semitism is no longer officially State sponsored, its roots run deep throughout the culture and its effects are felt in incidents across Russia and many of the other former Soviet Union countries. And now we are all made abruptly aware that on this coming Sunday, when elections are going to be held in Russia, there is a strong belief that those who are most likely to win seats are members of the Communist Party, avowed reformists. But the fact is we know that if people are looking fondly back to electing Communists to Government, with it goes a standard that has been set by those people for decades in that area. And so those who have been harassed in the past, who are likely to run into problems are very worried about what the future holds.

So if there are some who seek to abuse the program, as Senator SIMPSON claims, it is the responsibility of our Government to weed out that abuse. We do not stop collecting taxes in this country if someone abuses the Tax

Code. What we do is we go after them vigorously. And the same thing is true here. Our Government should eliminate the abuse if there is any in the program. It is not a reason to say that a program that has helped legitimate refugees is discredited.

Mr. President, the House version of the State authorization bill includes a 1-year extension of this program, a program that has provided a useful escape valve for historically persecuted people who come to this country and make a contribution to our society. In light of existing instability in the former Soviet Union, I believe that this program ought to be extended for another year. What it takes is our conferees in discussion to agree with the House.

I hope that will take place to give this program another year to work until we see what the conditions are going to be like in Russia in particular and some of the other countries of the former Soviet Union.

I yield the floor.

#### REFUGEES FROM FORMER SOVIET UNION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, yesterday, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee, spoke against the Lautenberg amendment which assists refugees from the former Soviet Union and which is reauthorized under the House version of the State Department reauthorization bill.

I support the amendment because it works. It has facilitated the rescue of more than 250,000 persecuted Jews and other minorities from the former Soviet Union since Congress adopted it in 1989. For decades, the United States led the world in seeking the release of the refuseniks and urging freedom of emigration under the Jackson-Vanik amendment. Having come this far, we should not abandon this historic commitment by bringing this humanitarian program to a premature end.

Clearly, major political changes have occurred in the region. The Soviet Union is now the former Soviet Union. And most people there enjoy greater freedom today than they did a decade ago.

But we only need to read the headlines to know that the region continues to face great upheaval. Jews and other minorities in the former Soviet Union are still the victims of persecution and deep-seated hatred and antisemitism.

When Senator SIMPSON and I met with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees earlier this year, she said she considered the former Soviet Union to be the most explosive part of the world for refugees. And visitors to the region over the past year have discovered alarming levels of antisemitic persecution.

An American delegation to the Ukraine in March found that Jews were victims of an organized harassment campaign. Many Ukrainian Jews received anonymous notices that read,