

nation. Her political savvy and integrity brought professional respect, as well as outstanding accomplishment. The great courage of her final year has been cited as she fought and at last accepted death with confidence, peace and encouragement for others. Not only at death's door was courage so evident. Her professional standards and personal values demanded courage and confidence and determination in reaching the goals she set for herself.

Mollie recognized the importance of maintaining a strong, healthy persona—physically, mentally and spiritually—not a selfish concern for her ego, but the pragmatic acceptance that thus only could she give the most of her life. Carlyle wrote that "Life is a little gleam of time between two eternities." Mollie's life was a great burst of light in that time allotted to her. We have been blessed by it.

She had one unusual and wonderful attribute—that of an unconscious but strong sense of personal presence, not one of power or command, but a presence that, of itself, demanded attention and got it. Hard to describe, but easy to recognize when you were exposed to it. Yet there were occasions when, while looking directly at you, she would leave you dreaming or thinking of some secret, transmundane reality, some mystic other world that only she could know and could not share. Then with a glance and a grin she would return her attention to you.

At the end Mollie could have assured us, "I own only my name. I've only borrowed this dust." Mollie's dust has returned to the earth from which it evolved. But her name will live long in our memories. May those memories serve to guide, strengthen and encourage us in our lives of service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

#### BLANKET HOLDS ON ENERGY COMMITTEE BILLS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I rise today to inform my colleagues of my degree of frustration with the gridlock that has occurred this entire Congress preventing passage of virtually every bill reported by my committee, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. As chairman of that committee, I obviously have the obligation of moving the bills out. I have attempted to do that.

I think it was the night before last, Mr. President, that the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, expressed similar frustration over an objection from this side of the aisle to a judicial nominee. You can imagine my frustration when a few Senators from the Democratic side have prevented passage of all 72 bills from my committee currently pending on the calendar. Those objections, Mr. President, were not based on the merits of the bills being held; they were based on a problem with some other bill. So we have this chain of "you are not going to support my bill unless your bill passes."

I think it is fair to note that during part of the last year and a half, all of my committee bills were being held not because of any inaction by the Senate or my committee, but the excuse was the House was not acting quickly enough on some matter of interest.

There are many, many items that are very important to Senators. I want to get them cleared and get them out.

For example, Sterling Forest, my good friend Senator D'AMATO has been urging me, clear Sterling Forest. The New York Times has taken up the charge. I certainly want to see Sterling Forest cleared. I want to support the position of my friend, Senator D'AMATO from New York, who responded to the editorial of the New York Times as it affects New Jersey, as it affects New York. We attempted to clear that, along with the Utah ski bill, and a couple of small native items for Alaska.

I cannot recall how many holds—it was like a rabbit trail. You could not keep up with it fast enough. Once we attempted to clear them, one hold would go on, someone would attempt to remove the hold, and, bingo, it is back on. My good friend from Utah, Senator BENNETT, spent endless hours trying to clear that. This is a blatant abuse of the whole process. It has to stop. I know the leadership feels that way. The Members are going to have to recognize a few realities.

Over the past several months, I have been working with my House counterparts to put together a package in conference on the Presidio bill. It has virtually everything in it. Everybody is not going to like everything in it, but there is virtually something in it for every Member. If you want to get behind this bill and get these land issues passed, you are simply going to have to recognize that we will have to keep the bill together.

Due to the holds and the situation of the Senate, the process has become cumbersome, to say the least. Virtually everyone who has a parks or public lands bill introduced in the House or Senate wants to be included in any package that is moving.

On the other hand, if I try to move an individual bill separately, Members think the Presidio package is dying and want to be included in the measure, as well. So what we have, Mr. President, is gridlock. I am not going to point fingers. It is just the reality.

Mr. President, frankly, I have had it. Unless those Members who have blanket holds on Energy Committee bills, unless they lift those holds and allow me, as chairman, to work the system, to start moving individual bills and packages where appropriate, no bills are going to move. That would be a shame, Mr. President, because these bills affect our Nation's parks, public lands, our forests. They are good public policy, and they are good for the environment.

I want to also add one more thing, because there is some confusion about the interests of the Senator from the State of Alaska. The Tongass is not part of this package. There is a proposal to allow an extension, for 15 years, of a competitive timber contract with the Forest Service for Louisiana Pulp Co., Louisiana Pacific Co. The ra-

tionale behind that, or the necessity, is that they are prepared and required, under the new laws governing effluent and air quality, to invest roughly \$200 million in converting this plant—which, I might add, is our only year-round manufacturing plant—in southeastern Alaska, upon which 2,000 jobs are dependent. They simply must have a contractual commitment from the Forest Service for supply of raw material.

Now, why is that different in Alaska? It is different in Alaska, Mr. President, because we have no other source of timber. There is no private timber. There is no State timber. It is all owned by the Federal Government, and their current contract is about to expire.

I ask unanimous consent to have 1½ more minutes.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. If the 15-year contract is not extended, this plant—the only manufacturing plant, with 2,000 jobs—will be lost, and the pulp timber will be exported out of the State, which is really a travesty.

Now, that is the interest of the Senator from Alaska in this package. So, Mr. President, I hope that clears up any doubts in the minds of anybody relative to the environmental aspects of the merits of this contract. This is to provide a chlorine-free new mill to replace the old one. But it can only happen if there is a contractual commitment for timber, because nobody is going to spend \$200 million without an assured supply and a contract with the Federal Government.

So I am committed to moving these bills. My committee has held hearings on these bills and held the markups. I have supported and voted for each of these bills. I am not the problem, Mr. President. But unless these holds are lifted, I don't see how I can be part of the solution. So I urge my colleagues—particularly the leadership—to do what they can to end this gridlock. It just has to be stopped.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

#### EXTENSION OF PATENT FOR LODINE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will be very brief.

Mr. President, I have sent a letter to my colleagues about the inclusion of the extension for the patent of the drug Lodine in the health insurance conference report and announced my intention to raise a point of order about this, since a similar provision was not included in either the House or the Senate bill. Whatever the intentions of whoever inserted this into conference committee report in the dark of night—and I don't know what their intentions were—certainly the impact of