

This afternoon, as the Federal aviation authorization bill moves forward and comes to the Senate floor, I hope we all keep in mind the fine testimony we heard this morning from those fine witnesses. I want to help them.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I know that a number of our colleagues this morning and this afternoon called attention to the retirement of our colleague, the senior Senator from Rhode Island, Senator PELL. I want to commend Senator HELMS and the others for their comments and identify with the remarks made earlier today by the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD.

There are few people who can claim the record, the respect, or the admiration of all of their colleagues as can Senator PELL. Senator PELL, as most people know, came to the Senate in 1960. Someone entering the Senate today, in order to have the same record in terms of numbers of years served, would retire in the year 2033. Thirty-six years from now, our country—and perhaps this body—will be much different, and I daresay 36 years from now, there will still be those who will recall the contribution and, again, the remarkable record of this very gentle man.

Senator PELL came during turbulent times. He became a U.S. Senator under then President Kennedy, served under President Johnson, President Nixon, President Ford, President Carter, President Reagan, President Bush, and now President Clinton. He has seen leadership of all kinds, Democratic and Republican, liberal and conservative, good and bad. Through all of this, his gentle nature, his remarkable ability to find common ground, his willingness to reach out to all sides in an effort to govern is something we can all be thankful for. He has a deep-seated belief in good Government, in democracy, and knows what it takes in this democracy to govern well. I don't recall how many times, but I can recall many occasions when Senator PELL would lecture us in our caucus about how ill-advised people are to pursue negative campaigns in Senate elections. He would remind us of that time and again. In spite of all the advice he got to be a negative campaigner, he adamantly refused. In spite of all that advice, and perhaps because of his determination to override that advice, he won every election by more than 60 percent of the vote. I think, in large

measure, that is because the people of Rhode Island know him the best. We know him, but they know him better. They know his decency, they know his commitment to them and to all of us, and they know of his record. They are proud in so many ways for all that he has done for them and for our country in the time that he served.

So it is with regret that we note his departure in this Congress. It is with a great deal of gratitude that many of us have been able to call him our friend. It is with admiration that we look at his record and aspire to the heights and to the accomplishments that it represents. We thank him for his friendship. We wish him and Nuala well in their life ahead.

In my view, there are still opportunities for Senator PELL to serve his country. I hope that that might happen. But regardless of what the future holds, no one can take away the 36 years of accomplishment, the 36 years of contribution to democracy, to the strength of this country, to the breadth and depth of the affection and love he has for it. Madam President, he will be missed. We don't wish him farewell. We only wish him Godspeed as he continues in his role—whatever it may be.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed as if in morning business.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

THE PRESIDIO OMNIBUS PARKS BILL

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, today I am proud to announce that we have an opportunity to pass the most wide ranging national parks and public land legislation in decades; that is, the Presidio omnibus parks bill.

This report encompasses 2 years, or thereabouts, of various attempts by Members on both sides to pass bills that affect this area of our national heritage. We had hearings. We had intense negotiations. I think the bills contained in the package really meet our Nation's environmental needs. It is good news for the national parks, and good news for land and resource conservation.

This package has over 700 pages. At last count there were 126 bills included. They range from the San Francisco Presidio to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Sterling Forest protection, Snowbasin land exchange, Black Patriot Memorial extension, Nicodemus National Historic Site, Jap-

anese-American Patriotism Memorial, numerous Civil War sites, Oak Creek Wilderness Scenic Recreation Area, the New Bedford whaling parks, and the Women's Rights National Heritage Park. It is estimated that there are about 37 States that are going to be affected by this package.

It is quite reasonable, Madam President, to ask the Senator from Alaska, well, why do we have to have this in a big package? Why did we not move on this over the last 2 years? I will tell you. As chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we have held hearings on these bills. So has the House. But on our side we have had holds on every single bill at one time or another in this package. The way it works around here, as we all know, is some Members feel if they want to get their bill through and they see others moving, they put what we call holds on things. We have had holds, and there is no use pointing the finger at each other because that is not going to get this package passed.

I do want to explain because some of the media cannot seem to understand why we have this enormous package. It is simply because of the way this place works. And when a Member wants to proceed with a bill out of our committee and we have voted it out and we cannot bring it up, it is because there is a hold on that bill. So we are down to the end of the 104th Congress. The name of the game is to try to address this package and recognize that we have withdrawn from the package the contentious portions that were identified potentially as veto material. These included some bills that the Senator from Alaska supported and felt very strongly about. One was the Tongass 15-year extension which would have prolonged the life of our only manufacturing plant, our only pulp mill, our only year-around manufacturing plant that wanted to convert from an old technology to a new technology by investing some \$150 million to \$200 million, but in order to do that they had to have an extension of the contract with the Forest Service to have an adequate timber supply to amortize that investment.

Members say, why is Alaska different? Why do you have to have a contractual commitment? The reasons are simple. We have no other source of supply than the U.S. Government through the U.S. Forest Service because we do not have private timber which is exported out of the State. The Forest Service timber, Government timber is prohibited from export, and as a consequence nobody is going to make that kind of investment without an extension of the contract. And their current contract expires in the year 2004. But the administration found that unacceptable and advised us that they would proceed with a veto if it were in the package. So the Senator from Alaska withdrew that.

Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which is an issue that some Members feel