

was. He quickly jumped into the legislative fires with both feet.

John also quickly became involved in the demands of Washington's political world, but he never lost his Mississippi style. Or his Mississippi perspective.

Mississippians have told me for years how much they enjoy coming to Washington to see John. He makes everyone feel comfortable—no formalities, no pretenses. John can comfortably sit next to a farmer from the Delta or a banker from the coast and listen to his or her concerns. Visitors from the State are delighted to have one of their own paying attention to their needs, knowing that the message is not going to fade away the moment they leave. Mississippians knew that John was an able steward of their concerns, that telling John was as good as telling me.

There isn't a farmer in the State of Mississippi that doesn't know John Lundy, either personally or by reputation. John's knowledge of our State's many agriculture communities is unmatched in Washington. He is respected for his understanding of the issues and his dedication to finding a fair and equitable solution for all.

Mississippi's agriculture community was indeed fortunate to have John Lundy in Washington during the 1996 farm bill debate. I found that, although John was my staff member, other Senators had adopted him as their key advisor on this bill. His tireless work on this very difficult and complex legislation brought him the respect of both the State and national agriculture community.

Most importantly, John has always put Mississippi first. No matter what the situation or how high the stakes, the needs of the State came first. We all know how easy it is to get caught up in both the glitter and the rat race of Washington, DC, but John's focus has always been hundreds of miles south of the beltway.

Mississippians brought him problems, and he found them solutions. Many years have gone by since John joined my staff, but my admiration for him has grown with each passing day.

Now the time has come for him to return to Mississippi, to take his young family back home. This past summer, he and his beautiful wife Hayley was blessed with a baby girl, Eliza, who John says "was born to be in Mississippi."

As the Lundy family makes their way back to Mississippi, I would like to thank them for being such an important part of my life. I cannot thank John enough for his many years of hard work and dedication. He certainly leaves big shoes to fill. His quiet humility and generous spirit will be missed by my entire staff. I will miss his guidance and friendship.

John, I wish you nothing but the best of luck in the future, May you and your family be richly blessed in the coming years.

NOMINATION OF RAYMOND C. FISHER TO BE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I remain frustrated by the Republican leadership's unwillingness to consider and approve the President's nomination of Ray Fisher to the third-highest ranking position at the U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Fisher has been stalled on the Senate Calendar for a month since being reported unanimously by the Judiciary Committee on October 9.

Ray Fisher is an outstanding lawyer and public servant. His record is exemplary.

Is this another example of a secret hold? There has been no explanation of justification for this delay and lack of action.

I recall when the Senate Republican leadership delayed the vote on the nomination of Eric Holder to the Deputy Attorney General position that we were told there were Senators with problems. I also remember that when I insisted on a rollcall vote on that nomination, after it had been stalled on the Senate Calendar for more than 3 weeks, the problems had all been resolved and the Senate confirmed Mr. Holder unanimously. One hundred Senators voted for that nomination.

I urge the Republican leadership to allow the Senate to confirm Ray Fisher to be Associate Attorney General of the United States.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry withdrawals and nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following bill:

S. 858. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 4:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, an-

nounced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2534. An act to reform, extend, and repeal certain agricultural research, extension, and education programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2631. An act disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on October 6, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-45.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 813. An act to amend chapter 91 of title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for theft and willful vandalism at national cemeteries.

S. 1377. An act to amend the act incorporating the American Legion to make a technical correction.

At 4:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2264. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2647. An act to ensure that commercial activities of the People's Liberation Army of China or any Communist Chinese military company in the United States are monitored and are subject to the authorities under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Pursuant to the order of the Senate of September 2, 1997, the following bill was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works for a period not to exceed 20 session days:

H.R. 1658. An act to reauthorize and amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act and related laws.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2631. An act disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on October 6, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-45.

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 1414. A bill to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes.