

an environmentally damaging way. Is Congress content to let this stand? Should we continue to hold these innocent parties liable simply because the technical legal fix is a stand-alone bill excerpted from a comprehensive context?

Mr. President, I understand the desires of Chairmen CHAFEE, BLILEY and SHUSTER to pass real comprehensive reform. I have always supported their efforts to do so. However, I cannot believe that moving the recycling provisions separately endangers their ability to do a comprehensive bill. The recycling piece has never been the reason for fixing Superfund—and it has certainly never held back progress on a comprehensive bill. Recycling is, given the scope, a very minor part of the total package. Minor, but eminently important to those who continue to be forced into funding cleanups for which they are not responsible.

Mr. President, I am disappointed that some in the business community would rather see no action on Superfund than allow S. 2180's almost 400 Congressional cosponsors to realize a tiny step forward. There are over 2,600 recycling facilities nationwide who suffer because of this "scorch the earth" mentality. It is indeed a tragedy, Mr. President, that we cannot recognize this common ground, agree on a solution and move on.

Mr. President, I hope that in the 106th Congress, we will take a look at Superfund with new eyes. I know we can find ways to provide American businesses—both large and small—some relief. I know we can actually get some clean up done, instead of pouring federal and private sector money into lawyers' pockets. Let's make sure that the parties who mess up are the parties that clean up. That's the bottom line and the goal we all strive towards regardless of philosophy or party.

Mr. President, I would like to thank those members of the House and Senate who have been such an integral part of moving S. 2180 forward. First and foremost, I would like to thank the Minority Leader, Mr. DASCHLE, who has been a great partner and advocate throughout the process of moving this bill. It is good to know that we can team up on issues like these—I hope to continue to do so in the future.

I would also like to thank Congressman TAUZIN, our House sponsor, for all of his efforts. Without a concerted push from both chambers, it is doubtful that we would have come as close as we did.

I would also like to thank the Speaker, the White House and the EPA for their interest and support on this issue.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to thank the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI) for its input. Its membership were instrumental in highlighting the plight of recyclers to their Congressional representatives. I hope that they are willing to join us in putting a shoulder to the grindstone again next Congress.

Thank you.

INTERNET DOMAIN NAME REGISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Internet Tax Freedom Act was included in the 1998 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

Congress wants a limited moratorium, accompanied by a careful review of all Internet and electronic commerce tax issues. This will give Congress the opportunity to properly evaluate state and local government interstate taxation, federal taxation and trade treatment of the Internet and electronic commerce. By enacting this measure, Congress also declared that the Internet should be free of any new federal taxes during the moratorium.

Mr. President, present federal law imposes no tax specifically on the Internet, including domain name registrations. However, with several of my colleagues, I have become aware of a pertinent U.S. Federal Court case, *Thomas et al v. National Science Foundation et al*. In this case, the Court recently declared that Section 8003—Ratification of Internet Fees—of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of FY98 did sanction what had been previously found by the Court to be an unconstitutional tax on domain name registrations.

I want to take this opportunity to state for the record that Section 8003 was never intended by Congress to ratify a tax on the Internet, but only to address a fee for the Intellectual Infrastructure Fund. Let me be clear. Section 8003 was not an authorization of any tax, unconstitutional or otherwise.

Mr. President, I am pleased this Congress rightly recognized the importance of the Internet and electronic commerce to America's economy, and the need to eliminate uncertainty and confusion surrounding Internet taxation policies.

Thank you, Mr. President.

TRIBUTE TO THE SENATE STAFF OF THE 105TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as the 105th Congress comes to a close, I want to recognize some of the people without whom the Senate simply could not operate—the loyal staff who serve this institution day in and day out with great dedication and pride.

The sacrifices staff make are largely unknown to most people outside the Senate, except perhaps their families. When most of us leave for home after a late night, the Official Reporters of Debates, the Parliamentarians, the Bill Clerks, often face several more hours in the office to finish up that day's legislative work. Staff often work around the clock to finalize important legislative measures, such as the omnibus appropriations bill we just passed.

Anyone who understands the Senate understands the crucial role staff plays. Today, I want to thank all Senate staff for their service to the Senate and to the Nation.

In particular, I want to mention some of the people who are responsible for the daily operations of the Senate. I begin by expressing my gratitude to the office of the Secretary of the Senate. Gary Sisco, Secretary of the Senate, is responsible for some of the most important activities in the Senate such as the Official Reporters of Debates, the Legislative and Bill Clerks, the Disbursing Office, the Information Systems and Computer Staff, the Senate Page School, the Historical Office and many other vital offices in the Senate. He has done a wonderful job of overseeing and improving the delivery and quality of services of those offices. I appreciate the professionalism and even-handedness he has exhibited throughout the 105th Congress. Gary is ably assisted by Jon Lynn Kerchner, Laura Nell Mitchell and Beth Collett.

Gregory Casey, who will be leaving the Senate shortly, has demonstrated tireless dedication to the Senate in the execution of his many responsibilities as Sergeant at Arms of the Senate. I'm thankful he didn't have to arrest any of us during his tenure as Sergeant at Arms and I commend him for his excellent management of a very large and complex operation. We will miss Greg and wish him the very best in the challenges that lay ahead. The Sergeant at Arms has been supported by the capable assistance of the Deputy Sergeant at Arms Loretta Symms and Larry Harris, his Administrative Assistant. The Sergeant's office is also assisted by the work of Becky Daugherty, Laura Parker, Carol Kresge, Mallory McCaskill and Laura Rossi.

I would like to give special thanks for the hard work and consummate professionalism of Jeri Thomson, the executive assistant for the minority, who has provided invaluable assistance to my Democratic colleagues and to me.

I would also like to thank the staff of our Capitol Facilities office, directed by Roy Banks, who keep this building and our offices clean and are always available, often on very short notice, to provide logistical support for the numerous meetings and gatherings we hold in the Capitol.

All Senators, I am sure, are grateful for the counsel and support they receive from the staff who work the Senate floor and cloakrooms. That assistance has become even more valuable to me since I became Democratic Leader.

Our Democratic floor staff works under the excellent leadership of Marty Paone, the Secretary for the Minority. Under great pressure, often with little time and with little margin for error, Marty has time and again provided wise counsel to all Senate Democrats—and even Republican Senators, on occasion. Despite the pressures, Marty always finds time to respond to questions from Senators and staff alike—everything from the routine questions about timing of votes to the most complex analysis of parliamentary procedure. The rare combination of a sharp mind,

even temperament, and in-depth experience make Marty one of the most valuable officers of the Senate, and I want to thank him and recognize him for that. In the Secretary's office, Marty is ably assisted by Sue Spatz and Nancy Iacomini.

Day-to-day management of the floor operation is in the capable and energetic hands of Lula Davis, the Assistant Secretary to the Minority. Lula's ability to juggle multiple tasks—from negotiations over bills that we seek to clear by unanimous consent, to advising Senators and staff on legislative strategy, to acting as informal fashion adviser to many of my colleagues—demonstrates her tireless dedication to making things work around here. Marty and Lula are joined by Democratic Floor Assistants, Gary Myrick and Paul Brown, who have done a wonderful job helping to move legislation and protect Senators' interests. I am profoundly grateful for their dedication, their vigilance and their intellect. They are all ably assisted by Alice Aughttry.

Our Democratic Cloakroom staff, Paul Cloutier, Brian Griffin, Brian Erwin and Tricia Engle also provide invaluable assistance in many aspects of our Senate life. Among other things, they field countless queries about what the Senate is doing and when votes will occur, including that age-old question, "Will there be any more roll call votes tonight?". They help us stay on schedule and where we are supposed to be, all the while keeping track of the flurry of legislation that moves through here, and keeping most of us entertained. I salute them for their hard work and good humor and thank them for their assistance.

It is no exaggeration to say that our ability to navigate the complexities of Senate rules and procedures would be impossible without the assistance of our Parliamentarians. Senate Parliamentarian Bob Dove, with the outstanding assistance of Senior Assistant Parliamentarian Alan Frumin, Assistant Parliamentarian Kevin Kayes, and Parliamentary Assistant Sally Goffinet, provides essential expertise and understanding of Senate procedure.

Our growing C-SPAN audience has no doubt become familiar with the commanding voice of Legislative Clerk Scott Bates and his assistant David Tinsley; Bill Clerk Kathie Alvarez has also become a notable presence. Kathie is assisted in her duties as Bill Clerk by Mary Anne Clarkson and John Burnham. Our legislative and bill clerks deserve the thanks and respect of all Senators for their keen attention to detail and their patient professionalism.

Journal Clerk William Lackey and his assistants Patrick Keating and Scott Sanborn; Enrolling Clerk Tom Lundregan and his assistant Charlene McDevitt; Executive Clerk David Marcos, 1st Assistant Executive Clerk, Michelle Haynes and assistants Ken Dean and Terry Sauvain; Daily Digest

Editor Thomas Pellikaan, Assistant Editor Linda Sebold, and Staff Assistant Kimberly Longworth, all have my gratitude for their long hours and hard work.

I also would like to thank and commend again our official Reporters of Debates for their hard work: Chief Reporter Ronald Kavulick and Coordinator of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Eileen Milton; Morning Business Editor Lee Brown and Assistant Editor John Merlino; Expert Transcribers Angela Gallacher, Alma Kristoffersen and Bernita Parker; and the Official Reporters of Debates: Jerald Linnell, Raleigh Milton, Joel Breitner, Mary Jane McCarthy, Paul Nelson, Katie-Jane Teel, and Patrick Renzi.

I also want to thank our Senate Doorkeepers, directed by Myron Fleming and Krista Beal for the friendly and helpful attitude they bring to their jobs, often in the face of long and uncertain hours. Without their assistance and that of all of our Senate support staff, our work simply could not get done.

Last, but certainly not least, Mr. President, I want to thank my own staff—in South Dakota and in Washington—and the staff of the Democratic Leadership Committees, whom I share with Senators REID, ROCKEFELLER, and KERRY. These bright, talented people are dedicated to the effort to serve the people of South Dakota and the Nation, as well as every Democratic Senator and their staffs. They do a tremendous job, and I owe each of them a debt of gratitude.

THANKS TO ERSKINE BOWLES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Erskine Bowles will soon leave his post as White House Chief of Staff. He will return to his beloved North Carolina. He returns to his family; his remarkable wife, Crandall, and his exceptional children, Sam, Annie and Bill. If you know Erskine Bowles, you know that his heart has never left them through all his time in Washington. His home and his family are the pride of his life.

But as Erskine prepares to leave his post, he has a right to feel deeply proud of all he has accomplished here, as well. In so much of the progress made during President Clinton's Administration, you see the steady hand and clear vision of Erskine Bowles.

He came to the Capital little known to most of us. He had no experience in the so-called "ways" of Washington. Yet before long, the President realized Erskine was the man for the toughest job in town.

The President's confidence in this choice has been soundly ratified. Erskine leaves here a true friend to every one of us in the Democratic Caucus. He has earned the respect and admiration of Senators on both sides of the aisle. Most importantly, he has put the interests of the country ahead of the problems and politics of public life. By giving of himself—his time and his tal-

ents—millions of American families are better off today than they would have been had Erskine never come to Washington.

Jobless men and women now support growing families. Those workers have higher wages. Those wages have helped fuel a roaring economy. Those families can afford to buy their own homes. Those parents can send their children to college. Those children can share in the promising future that Erskine Bowles helped build.

Mr. President, earlier today, we passed a massive budget bill. Some have found fault with that bill in both substance and process. Some of that criticism is justified. But, I, for one, am relieved that during this unfortunate process, the country had Erskine Bowles negotiating the substance. Due in large part to Erskine Bowles, there will be 100,000 new, qualified teachers helping our children get the education they deserve.

There is another important provision in the bill worth noting. For tucked in that \$500 billion package, there is funding for the operations of the White House. And from the money dedicated to the salaries of the White House staff, Erskine Bowles takes one dollar a year.

So as we send that bill to the President for his signature, I will take pride in its support for 100,000 teachers; in its protections for our environment; and for the emergency relief it will bring to our farm families.

I will also support it for what it represents: Erskine Bowles' salary—probably the smartest single dollar this government has ever spent.

On behalf of all my colleagues, we honor the service of Erskine Bowles, and wish him and his family the very best in the good days that lie ahead.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN XAVIER BECERRA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as we bring our legislative session to an end, it is appropriate that we pay tribute to an American leader, the outgoing Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for the 105th Congress, and my friend, XAVIER BECERRA.

Our Nation is fortunate to have an actively engaged Congressional Hispanic Caucus to ensure that more Americans have the opportunity to enjoy the rewards and responsibilities of American citizenship. Their efforts have succeeded in increasing educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans, promoting fairness in our judicial system, and protecting political participation vital to our democracy. Millions of people have benefited from effective leadership provided by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and in particular, by Mr. BECERRA.

XAVIER BECERRA was first elected to represent the 30th District of California in November 1992. In 1997, Representative Becerra was elected to serve as Chairman of the Congressional