

realistic hope for lasting peace for the two communities. We cannot let it fail.

It is hard to understand why this moment was not seized. The Good Friday Peace Agreement is the only way forward—the only way to bring the two communities closer together to build a better future for the people of Northern Ireland.

Decommissioning was not a precondition for the formation of the Executive, but it should take place along with other provisions of the agreement. The Way Forward proposal outlined a clear timetable for addressing the issue. It required clear progress on decommissioning in the coming weeks. General De Chastelain would review progress on decommissioning in September, in December, and again in May 2000. He would need to say publicly that everyone is cooperating. Without significant progress, the Executive would be disbanded.

It is tragic that the opportunity to form the Executive was missed.

The Agreement is the mandate of the people, and must be implemented. It

offers the Unionists their key demands—their constitutional position, the principle of consent, an end to violence.

I would hope that once out of the marching season and after a period of reflection and the review by the governments and parties of the working of the agreement—not a review of the agreement itself—that wiser counsels will prevail in September.

I share the frustration expressed by President Clinton that a breakthrough of this potential is being stalled by a dispute on sequencing, which should weigh very little compared to the historic agreement on areas of substance reached in the negotiations.

I applaud the determination of the two Prime Ministers and President Clinton to persist in their efforts, with the support of Senator Mitchell, to overcome this last hurdle.

Despite this latest impasse, all who care about peace must redouble their efforts to find a solution. We must focus our energy on increasing the po-

litical dialogue and securing full implementation of the agreement.

A way must be found to build trust between the two communities of Northern Ireland. It is clearly the will of the people of Northern Ireland.

The Governments of Ireland and Great Britain and the United States must continue to work together to revitalize the peace process. We cannot let it fail.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
JULY 19, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 12 noon, on Monday, July 19, 1999.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:14 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 19, 1999, at 12 noon.