

immediately fell ill with strange symptoms. They were consequently evacuated to Kampala, Uganda, for testing even as they continued to physically suffer.

This, in turn, precipitated the beginning of a United Nations investigation into the use of chemical weapons, as reported this week by those three news organizations, chemical weapons that the chairman of the Armed Services Committee was just noting, that the biggest threat we are facing in the future is weapons of mass destruction. We are seeing here this week, reported in the newspaper, what has taken place in the Sudan, the symptoms of chemical weapons being reported.

We can't at this time jump to conclusions that they were actually used, but the evidence points clearly to the use of chemical weapons by the organization, by the government in Khartoum against its own civilian population in the southern part of that country.

This is also a government in Khartoum that is sponsoring terrorists around the world, where Osama bin Laden stayed and was hosted by them up until 1997 in Khartoum. They are trying to expand in three adjacent countries, saying we want to take our view of how the world should be organized into these countries and we are willing to do it by any means. We are even willing to use any means against our own people, against our own people.

They have killed in their own country 2 million people. They have pushed out and dislocated an additional 4 million people. Last year alone, they forced into starvation 100,000 people by denying our food aid to go where these people were located. They said: You cannot fly your relief planes to feed these poor people. Now they continue to bomb their civilian population, even with, if the evidence this week is proved true, chemical weapons.

I think this is so horrifying. I wanted to draw the attention of the Senate to what has been reported by these three news organizations this week and to call on the nation of Sudan to stop bombing its own civilian population, to refuse to do that, to call upon the U.N. to, with as much speed and haste as possible, conduct a full investigation of what has been reported this week as having happened to the civilian population, and call on U.S. authorities to investigate this as fully as we can to see what actually took place. If true, this is truly horrifying, that weapons of mass destruction such as these chemical weapons would be used against their own civilian population. I think it is just absolutely unconscionable, virtually unbelievable.

This is also a government that continues to allow slavery to be conducted on in its country. There have actually been thousands of people purchased back from their slave masters. As we approach the new millennium, one would think that at least the institution of slavery would be gone from the

world. It is not. One would think the use of chemical weapons would be gone from the world today, but it is not.

These things must be investigated to the fullest extent, and if chemical weapons were, indeed, used, the Government of Sudan must be brought in front of the international bodies, the international court of shame, and put in that pariah nation category. They currently, of course, are one of the seven terrorist nations in the entire world that the U.S. Government lists as a terrorist nation. But the possible use of chemical weapons, as reported this week, takes this to an unbelievable level against its own population. That is why, even though this is a late hour, I draw this to the attention of this body.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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TRIBUTE TO CARL BIRSACK,
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR FOR
THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize and bid farewell to my loyal and trusted advisor, Carl Biersack. Carl is leaving my staff to enter into retirement after 27 years of Federal service, including more than 9 years of outstanding service on my staff.

It is difficult to pay adequate tribute to a man who has done so much for me, for my staff, and for the State of Mississippi and the Nation. Those of you who know Carl know that he gives 110 percent of himself every day, inspiring those around him to do the same.

He is the son of a career U.S. Army officer, Carl graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1971. He received his commission as a second lieutenant and served on active duty for over 7 years. So how did I get so lucky, you ask, to add this VMI alumnus to my staff? Yes, VMI is where Sigma Nu was founded, but no, this is not the reason!

Mr. President, in 1988, the U.S. Army made Carl the recipient of the prestigious Pace Award. This award, which was named after a former Secretary of the Army, is given out annually to one civilian and one member of the military who have demonstrated outstanding service on the Army staff to their nation.

As if receiving the coveted Pace Award was not tribute enough, the award included an opportunity to study at Harvard for a year. Because of family considerations, Carl decided to forgo a move to Boston and instead asked to spend a year as a Capitol Hill

fellow. He thought he would learn more useful skills here than at Harvard. He was right. The Army agreed, and he was hired as a fellow in my personal office by my then-Chief of Staff, John Lundy; former Legislative Director Sam Adcock; and Susan Butler, now Chief of Staff for Congressman Chip Pickering.

That's right, Mr. President—I was Carl's second choice. Carl is quick to say he is an accidental staffer. Someone who did not aspire to work on the Hill. I believe this was one of his strengths.

He brought the honor and integrity he learned at VMI, the discipline and dedication of his Army service, and the work ethic of a DOD civil servant to my office.

After his first year, I asked Carl to stay as a permanent member of my staff. Fortunately for me and Mississippi, he did. Now, looking back at his nine years worth of accomplishments, I am amazed. In fact, I had grown so accustomed to his daily presence, when asked, I said Carl worked for me for 13 years. Even people downtown think his tenure was about 15 years. His presence and contributions cast a long shadow.

Carl has covered a broad range of issues during his tenure on the Hill ranging from telecommunications to energy, from environment to fish, from oceans and roads to bridges and aviation. While Carl has never sought the limelight, many of my colleagues recognize his vital role in enacting important legislation. He was a fearless negotiator who frequently found consensus through incremental changes. Often his work was ratified by unanimous consent actions.

During Carl's tenure, he successfully shepherded roughly 25 public laws through the legislative process: Many of these laws moved key industries to competition, such as the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998. Some reformed the way the Government regulates and supports certain industries, such as the ICC Termination Act of 1995, the Maritime Security Act of 1996, and the Amtrak Reform Act of 1997.

Some will shape our Nation's high-tech economy, such as the Y2K Act and the Internet Tax Freedom Act. Others, such as the National Invasive Species Act of 1996, and the Accountable Pipeline Safety and Partnership Act of 1996, protect life, property, and the environment from harm.

Then there were bills, like TEA-21, which were vital to maintaining and improving our Nation's infrastructure. And let me not forget Carl's role in facilitating Congress' basic responsibility: authorizing and appropriating funds for Executive departments and agencies.

Carl was able to accomplish so much as a Senate staff member because of his willingness to work out inclusive solutions to problems. His success can also be attributed to his efforts to remain

an anonymous staffer who avoided the spotlight. He concentrated on results, not personal credit.

Staff on both sides of the aisle were comfortable working with him. He admitted his errors, said he didn't know when he was unsure, and was generous with his praise for others. He read the material provided by constituents and advocates, returned phone calls, and was accessible. He was the consummate staffer.

Both Senators and staff knew Carl would deal with their concerns fairly, honestly, and professionally. A deal was a deal. His word was respected. This was true both on the Hill and downtown.

Carl was determined to learn all there was to know about Mississippi. He made trips back to the state to visit our catfish farms, pulp and paper plants, national forests and universities. He saw small towns, courthouse squares, topnotch telecommunications headquarters and military bases. Carl knew that learning about the lives of Mississippians was important to effectively represent the state and its citizens.

Although Carl is from Virginia—often referring to himself as my token non-Mississippian—he was an ardent defender of Mississippi's interests and people. Mississippians have grown to trust and respect Carl's devotion to ensuring that Mississippi's issues and concerns were recognized and often included. His adamant support of my home state's interests has not gone unnoticed by its citizens. Carl was named an honorary citizen of Mississippi and he proudly displayed the certificate.

For years, Carl willingly and voluntarily assumed the role of mentor to new staff members who needed help navigating the complex legislative world. As Legislative Director, he challenged staff to achieve their fullest potential, take risks and learn from their mistakes. There is no doubt that his influence spurred the professional growth made by young, eager staffers, resulting in talented and enthusiastic team players. Carl was always willing to share the lessons he learned the hard way.

There is no overstating how Carl's selflessness has enhanced the professional and personal lives of the generations of staffers who were privileged enough to work with Carl. He lived by the motto on his VMI class ring—"honor above self."

I know that I am losing a brilliant and effective legislative director, but others tell me that I am losing the man who is teacher, parent and sometimes counselor to those around him. I am quite sure that the rest of my staff will miss him as much as I will.

Carl's memos and notes were always timely, informative, and accurate. They were frequently entertaining, and sometimes caustic, but his daily paper trail ensured I had the necessary information to deal with the issues and events surrounding legislation. He was

not afraid to tell bad news, but he always proposed solutions.

Carl was the king of metaphors. He used them to make a point, to negotiate, and to educate. Still, he was eager to dig into issues and legislation. His knowledge of bills was his credibility. I do not think I ever saw him without reading material.

Mr. President, it saddens me to see a man of Carl's caliber depart my staff. He certainly leaves big shoes to fill. For Carl's talent, loyal service and dedication to me and the state of Mississippi, I am very grateful.

He is a man who was defined by his family. He always had his priorities straight and he never forgot his family as he fulfilled his commitments to the Senate and Mississippi. His wife, Ann, and his daughters, Katie, Sarah, Olivia, Allyson, and Rebecca, have reason to be proud. I wish Carl Biersack good luck in all of his future endeavors and pray that God may continue to richly bless him and his family.

REINSTATEMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE'S ORIGINAL 1890 LAND-GRANT STATUS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, West Virginia State College in Institute, West Virginia, was designated by Congress as one of the original 1890 land-grant schools under the Second Morrill Act. The college was the first 1890 land-grant school to be accredited and has been accredited longer than any other public college or university in West Virginia.

West Virginia was one of six states to establish a new land-grant college under state control. West Virginia State College faithfully met its duties to the citizens of West Virginia as a land-grant college in an outstanding manner.

However, on October 23, 1956, the State Board of Education voted to surrender the land-grant status of State College (effective July 1, 1957). Historical data suggests that this action was taken in an effort to enhance State College's ability to accommodate veterans returning home with GI benefits. In addition, the decision to surrender the land-grant status preceded explicit funding by Congress for land-grant institutions.

For thirty-three years, West Virginia State College has sought to regain its land-grant status. On February 12, 1991, Governor Gaston Caperton signed a bill into law that provided redesignation authority for land-grant status from the State of West Virginia. On March 28, 1994, then U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy informed West Virginia Governor Caperton that State College would receive a partial land-grant designation that would entitle the college to \$50,000 annually under the Second Morrill Act.

It has become clear that funding is the issue that must be addressed to reinstate West Virginia State College's land-grant status. I authored an

amendment to the FY 2000 Agriculture Appropriations bill that will provide \$2 million in additional funds for 1890 Institution entitlements to be used for base line funding for West Virginia State College. This amendment does not grant full 1890 land-grant funding privileges to State College, but provides a \$2 million entitlement. The amendment does not cut into the current 1890 entitlement accounts. It adds additional funding with an offset from the National Research Initiative account.

My amendment provides fair treatment to West Virginia State College, an original 1890 land-grant school, and I thank my colleagues for supporting this provision.

COMMUNITY AND OPEN SPACES BONDS ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today as an original cosponsor of the community and Open Spaces Bonds Act (COSB). This bill provides assistance to our local communities in their continuous efforts to improve the quality of life through flexible, zero-cost financing options for protecting open spaces.

As the acreage of open space in this country continues to decline, we find ourselves in a battle of time against widespread urban sprawl. The American citizens have spoken out, demanding that this body take the action necessary to protect the remaining open spaces and outdoor recreational opportunities that they have enjoyed since the founding of this great nation. The America Farmland Trust estimates that we have been losing farmland at approximately 3,000 acres per day since 1970. This growth is not only damaging to the agricultural industry, but all those who wish to enjoy this nation's natural bounties.

I believe it is our obligation to respond to and remedy this situation. For this reason, I would like to thank my colleague Senator BAUCUS for taking the initiative in proposing legislation that provides incentives to those private land owning citizens who wish to protect our valuable open spaces. Our proposal makes available up to \$1.9 billion annually for five years in bonding authority to state, local, and tribal governments. This voluntary approach allows the local community to lead the charge in projects that will improve the quality of life of its citizens, while the Federal government simply plays a supporting role. I think that is the way to do it.

These community based projects will be supported through proceeds from the sales of the bonds. The issuers would repay the principal at the end of 15 years, but the Federal government would pay the issuers' interest or borrowing costs through the tax credit during that period. As an incentive, the holder of the bond would get an annual tax credit equal to the corporate average AA bond rating, as posted by the Treasury, multiplied by the face amount of the bond.