

COMMENDING STEPHEN G. BALE,  
KEEPER OF THE STATIONERY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 240, submitted earlier today by Senators LOTT and DASCHLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislation clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 240) commending Stephen G. Bale, Keeper of the Stationery, United States Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on December 31, 1999, Steve Bale will retire as Keeper of the Stationery for the United States Senate.

Steve began his Senate career in November 1969 as a clerk in the Stationery Room. In July 1980, he was appointed Assistant Keeper of the Stationery, and in September 1987, assumed the responsibilities as the 16th Keeper of the Stationery.

In this capacity, Steve has directed a busy operation, successfully serving a client base that now spans over 240 offices and five buildings. His leadership of the recent renovations to the Stationery Room has ensured that the office will function efficiently, well into the 21st century.

In his 30 years of public service, Steve has set a standard among his associates for commitment to excellence and dedication to personal service. According to his staff, one of Steve's favorite expressions is, "In this business, one 'oops' can wipe out fifteen 'attaboys!'" The standard of excellence he set will benefit the Senate for years to come, as the associates he leaves behind continue in the tradition of the principles he espoused.

Steve Bale should enter his retirement with tremendous satisfaction for all he has accomplished. I am pleased to join so many others in thanking him for his long and faithful service and in wishing him health and happiness in the years to come.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Steve Bale is one of those individuals who serve faithfully and diligently over many years to ensure that the United States Senate runs efficiently and effectively. All Senators know and appreciate the members of the Senate community who share their pride in public service and commitment to the Senate. We know we could not do our jobs without the dedication of people such as Steve Bale.

Steve began his career in the Senate in 1969 as an employee of the Stationery Room under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Senate and ultimately became Keeper of the Stationery. Not many ascend to that unusual title; there have been only four in the history of the Senate. The first person to hold that title was John Lewis Clubb who was given the title in 1854, after some twenty years of actually doing the job. Some may wonder

what the Keeper of the Stationery does for the Senate and how that job and title came into being.

The Stationery Room can be traced back to the First Congress and the first Secretary of the Senate, Samuel A. Otis, who provided various writing and other supplies for the Senate. Operated initially out of a corner of the Secretary's office, the Stationery Room has occupied nine different locations within the Senate. It has grown from this corner-office operation into a multi-million dollar one serving about 240 offices in the Senate and expanded from its initial offerings of "ink, quills, and parchment" to a complex merchandise facility which meets the high-tech and traditional needs of these offices.

The Stationery Room used to be a simple, service desk facility. Steve led the transition to a full self-service store. Under Steve's direction, the administrative and business functions of the Stationery Room were automated for the first time. He oversaw the installation and GAO certification of an inventory control system and has supervised the installation and testing of the new Y2K compliant computer system. With Steve at the helm, we can all be absolutely certain that the Senate's Stationery Room will NOT have Y2K problems!

Of particular note is the role Steve played in the development and procurement of the Senate's official flag. S. Res. 369, agreed to on September 7, 1984, directed "the Secretary of the Senate to design and make available to Members an official Senate flag." Working closely with the staff of the Committee on Rules and Administration, Steve provided the expertise to have a flag designed, find the appropriate manufacturer and ensure that the Senate has official flags for all of its official functions. Few Senators know about the relatively brief history of the Senate flag and fewer still know about Steve's important role in seeing that this resolution's direction was successfully carried out and that the Senate has a suitable and dignified flag.

We are fortunate to share a wonderful sense of community among the members and staff who serve here. Steve is among the most respected and well liked within this small community. Always helpful, always smiling, always encouraging to the numerous staff who come into his office on a daily basis, he has found no problem too trivial and no task too difficult to handle.

As Steve leaves his many friends and admirers in the Senate, we wish him a long retirement filled with many hours on the golf course.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 240) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 240

Whereas the Senate has been advised that its Keeper of the Stationery, Stephen G. Bale, will retire on December 31, 1999;

Whereas Steve Bale became an employee of the Senate of the United States on November 13, 1969, and since that date has ably and faithfully upheld the high standards and traditions of the Senate for a period that included sixteen Congresses;

Whereas Steve Bale has served with distinction as Keeper of the Stationery, and at all times has discharged the important duties and responsibilities of his office with dedication and excellence; and

Whereas his exceptional service and his unflinching dedication have earned him our esteem and affection: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the United States Senate commends Stephen G. Bale for his exemplary service to the Senate and the Nation; wishes to express its deep appreciation for his long, faithful and outstanding service; and extends its very best wishes upon his retirement.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Stephen G. Bale.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3419.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3419) to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will consider H.R. 3419, the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999. H.R. 3419 reflects a negotiated compromise between the House and Senate on two bills (S. 1501 and H.R. 2679). I want to extend my appreciation to Senators HUTCHISON, HOLLINGS, and BREAU, along with Congressmen SHUSTER and OBERSTAR, for their bipartisan effort in developing this comprehensive motor carrier safety legislation. I also want to acknowledge the recommendations by the Office of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Inspector General, Ken Mead and his staff, as well as the highway safety advocates, truck drivers, industry officials, and safety enforcement officials for their suggestions on improving truck and bus safety.

During the past year, significant attention has been directed toward truck safety issues in both chambers. Following a comprehensive analysis on the federal motor carrier safety program by the DOT Inspector General, the Commerce Committee held two hearings on truck safety concerns. The