

they elected to serve them at State government. We also extend our sympathies to the family of Chris Sifford.

All of us involved in statewide public office know the dangers of flying across our States for different events. So when a tragedy such as this occurs, it hits especially hard. When I woke up at 6 o'clock this morning to the public radio saying Mel Carnahan and his son were killed, it reminded me how fragile life is and how so often we take life for granted. It also reminded me that each day we live, we should thank God for it and let the people with whom we come in contact know that we love them.

This is a sad day for our country. As I said, Mel Carnahan was truly a great leader and made a great contribution also to the National Governors' Association.

Many Senators knew Governor Carnahan and will be making remarks today and in the next few days.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I received a phone call early this morning from my personal assistant, Janice Shelton, who indicated to me that Governor Carnahan was dead, having been killed in a tragic plane crash with his son, Randy.

I have watched very closely Governor Carnahan for the last 18 months, as we have watched the most noted Senate race in America this year between two very fine men, Senator ASHCROFT, formerly the Governor of Missouri, and Governor Carnahan. It was a great race to watch because they were so devoted to their different causes. There was distinction between the campaign philosophies. It was a race where the numbers never changed more than a point or two: For 18 months, back and forth, one ahead by a point, the other ahead by a point.

At this time, we realize that those numbers don't mean a great deal, that races in which we are engaged involve good people. Governor Carnahan, what a wonderful man. I got to know him very well, and his wife attended many functions in which I was in attendance. He dedicated his life to public service. The State of Missouri and the country will be less as a result of losing this fine man.

As has been indicated by Governor VOINOVICH, Senator VOINOVICH, our hearts go out to the entire family and the people of Missouri. Also, as Senator VOINOVICH and I were talking before the Senate convened, we have a great amount of sadness for Senator ASHCROFT, who is going through a difficult time now as a result of this, always wondering, having flown around the State himself, as we all have, trying to understand this life that we lead. So not only do I extend my sympathy to the Carnahan family, but also to Governor ASHCROFT, and the fact that in this country we can have people who have strong beliefs, differing beliefs, yet people of great moral certitude who believe very strongly in their causes. That is what makes this country as great as it is.

It is with a great deal of sadness that I came to work today. It is with a great deal of sadness I am with the Dean of the Senate and Senator VOINOVICH who is opening the Senate today. This will have an impact on my life, always, having known him and suddenly his life is snuffed out. I am a better person for having known Governor Carnahan. The people of Missouri are better off as a result of his service. I wish Godspeed to the people of Missouri and the Carnahan family.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not also mention that I was asked by Senator KIT BOND and Senator ASHCROFT to also publicly express their sympathies to the people of Missouri on the death of Mel Carnahan. Both Senator ASHCROFT and Senator BOND served as Governors of the State of Missouri and knew Mel Carnahan quite well. We know there was a campaign going on, and I am sure this is also very heavy on JOHN ASHCROFT.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wish to make a comment about the tragic death last evening of Governor Carnahan of Missouri. Governor Carnahan, of course, was also a candidate for the Senate, a Governor of Missouri, Lieutenant Governor, and a distinguished officeholder for many years in the State of Missouri. His tragic death last evening is something that obviously allows all to say to his family, his widow, and the folks who were his friends and relatives, that our thoughts and prayers are with them. It is a difficult time, I know. This is a man who gave so much service to his country and such distinguished service to our country.

My thoughts are with him and his family this morning.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I extend my deepest personal sympathies to Mel Carnahan's family. He was tragically killed in a plane crash last night. All Members want to serve our country as well as we possibly can. We go the extra mile to serve our people. We all know the dangers inherent with flying in small aircraft to try to attend political events and try to make meetings on schedules that are very uncertain.

All in the Senate are particularly grieved in this tragedy. We extend our most heartfelt sympathies to the Governor's wife, his family, to his campaign team, and all who were involved. It is difficult to explain how deeply we feel about this.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Ohio, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

now recess until the hour of 11 a.m., and further that Senator DORGAN be recognized at 11 for up to 30 minutes.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:22 a.m., recessed until 11:03 a.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ROBERTS).

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS, wishes to make a presentation on the Agriculture appropriations bill. I intend to make a longer presentation. I ask he be recognized; that following his presentation, I be recognized in the regular order.

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

The distinguished Senator from Montana is recognized.

RETIREMENT SECURITY

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise to urge that Congress enact the Retirement Security and Savings Act, which has passed the House and been reported unanimously by the Senate Finance Committee. This is a balanced, bipartisan bill. It will encourage people to set their own money aside for retirement, by reforming the private pension rules and increasing the amount that people can put in an individual retirement account. It also will create two important new savings incentives. One is a tax credit for small businesses that set up pension programs for their employees. The other is a tax credit for low and middle income people who save for their own retirement. If, before adjourning, we can find a way to enact this bill, it will be a significant addition to the record of the 106th Congress. Let me explain why.

The American people have many wonderful qualities. But, these days, unfortunately, thrift is not one of them. During the last 20 years, personal savings rates have consistently declined, from 9 percent of GDP in the 1970s to less than 1 percent now. In fact, the preliminary net personal savings rate for August is the lowest rate since the Commerce Department began keeping records in 1959. So what? Why does this matter?

In the first place, a low savings rate means that less capital is available for new investments. Perhaps that is not a pressing issue right now, with a booming economy. But it should be. Over