

that is taught at MIT or the so-called fuzzy math talked about during the campaign, 50 and 50 are equal.

As a result of that, I recommend the President-elect interject himself into what is going on here in the legislative branch of the Government. I think what he should do is say 50-50 is equal. I think the Republicans should go along with the Democrats to have committees that are even—that is, the same number of Democrats on the committee as Republicans. There should be equal funding. There should be equal staffing. I think he should take a look at the committee chairmanship structure. I think it would be a significant step if President-elect Bush stepped forward and looked at what the future holds.

The future holds that, for example, if the Budget Committee is 10-10—one of the first things we are required by law to do is come forward with the budget—if the committee is 10-10, anything that comes before this Senate will be bipartisan in nature and I think will be approved quickly. It would be the same on other committees. I think one thing the American people have said is that we should work in a bipartisan basis, 50-50 in the Senate, 50-50, approximately, in the House.

We have a President who was elected with fewer votes than the his opponent. I just think this is a time that calls for bipartisanship. I think we can do that. But I think it would set a very bad tone if the Republicans, some of whom are in denial that the Senate is 50-50, would prevent the Senate from going forward by saying we are not going to give you equality on the committees. If that happens, it is not the Democrats who are holding up action in the Senate, it is the Republicans—the Republicans who we no longer refer to as the majority because they are not the majority. It is the Republicans who will be holding up this Congress and this country from moving forward.

I also think it appropriate that President Bush follow the example we have in the Cabinet today with Secretary Cohen. Secretary Cohen is a bona fide, card-carrying Republican from the State of Maine who did an outstanding job and is doing an outstanding job during his tenure as Secretary of Defense. I hope President-elect Bush will also look to people of the other party, the Democratic Party, to fill spots in his Cabinet. I am confident he will do that.

Again, I feel so good today about our country. We should all feel good about our country. In spite of the closeness of the election, in spite of the more than 1 month since the election took place, we have two men who stepped forward last night; they stepped forward with compassion, stepped forward with confidence—confidence at the greatness of this country.

I have been through statewide recounts, two of them, one of which I lost by 524 votes; one of which I won by 428 votes. I know what close elections are

all about. I know how difficult recounts are. I was very proud of both men and their families for what they put up with and how they ended the election process last night. It speaks well of them and of our country.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SLADE GORTON

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, everyone has been focused on the Presidential election. It has been one of the most drawn out Presidential elections in U.S. history. Another election came to conclusion recently, and that was the Senate race in the State of Washington, one of the closest Senate races in many years. It took weeks to discern.

Our friend and colleague, Senator SLADE GORTON, was defeated. I want to make a couple comments concerning our colleague, Senator GORTON.

I had hoped he would not lose this race because he is a friend of mine and, in my opinion, he is one of the most outstanding Senators we have had.

By way of a little history, I was elected with Senator GORTON in 1980. Both of us were freshman Senators. He was formerly an attorney general. He gained some attention nationwide in that he and his family bicycled all the way across our country. It shows they are a close family and individuals with endurance and athletic talent.

He is an outstanding Senator. He lost reelection in 1986, unfortunately. A lot of people lost. It was a tough year. That was certainly one of the toughest losses we had. I remember stating at that time when Senator GORTON lost that he was a Senator's Senator. I hated to see him lose that race. He showed great endurance and came back in 1988 and won and also won reelection in 1994. As I mentioned, he was just defeated in a very close race in 2000.

Senator GORTON has served 18 years in the Senate. In his last two consecutive terms, he was chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and worked on a couple of different Appropriations subcommittees. He did an outstanding job with the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee which has enormous responsibility. He handled that with great skill and in a bipartisan way.

People ask: Can the Senate function? Can we work in a bipartisan manner? I look at Senator GORTON and his leadership on the Interior Subcommittee, working with Senator BYRD and Senator REID. He has proven it can happen and has shown how it can happen and should happen.

He is an outstanding Senator. He has handled his defeat with great class. There was a recount, and he congratulated MARIA CANTWELL as the victor. We are proud to call him our colleague and our friend. Certainly he will be missed in this body; certainly his leadership will be missed in the State of Washington.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB KERREY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, Senator BOB KERREY from Nebraska, as most people know, was a former Governor of Nebraska. He has completed two terms in the Senate. I, for one, hate to see him leave the Senate. I have had the pleasure of working with Senator KERREY on the Finance Committee. He has shown great courage.

He is a person who has been willing to talk about difficult issues: Curbing the growth of entitlements, Medicare, and Medicaid. He worked on the commission that was also chaired, I think, by Senators BREAU, FRIST, and THOMAS, and was an outstanding member in saying: Let's make some of the tough choices; let's make some of those tough choices now.

He is a person who has been willing to reach out and work in a bipartisan fashion, such as on personal savings accounts for Social Security, reforming Social Security.

He has courage. He has conviction. He has shown it time and time again with his service in the Senate, with his activities in the Senate and outside the Senate.

Everyone knows he is a Medal of Honor winner. I think of him as a competitor, as a friend, as a colleague. Some of us jog on occasion. Senator KERREY jogs and jogs quite well. That is very inspirational because he also has an artificial leg.

He has a great personality. I think he has made a great contribution to the Senate. He has helped improve the quality of the Senate, and certainly he will be missed. I think he has announced he is going to be a university president. That will be very much to the gain of that university. He will be sorely missed in the Senate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROD GRAMS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to take just a few minutes to comment on one of our friends who is leaving the Senate.

We all, of course, feel strongly about the changes that take place in this