

of carbon dioxide. That's the amount that should be reduced by the electric utility sector under our treaty commitment to try to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels. Clearly, we have failed.

Perhaps these shortfalls are why no Senators cosponsored the President's Clear Skies proposal when it was finally introduced last year. Perhaps the elimination of important State and local air protection authorities kept senators from supporting it.

Whatever the reason, the President's proposal had little or no public support. Yet, since January 20, 2001, the administration has had every opportunity to constructively engage with us and promote his Clear Skies proposal.

But, they did little or nothing. They certainly did not respond in a timely, helpful way to legitimate inquiries on its effects.

Instead, they spent their time figuring out ways to deregulate and to rollback air quality protections under the cloak and shadow of their three-pollutant initiative.

Perhaps now, as the 2004 elections get nearer and the administration as yet has no tangible and positive environmental achievements of its own, we can work together, I urge us to work together to make progress.

But, unless the Administration agrees to cooperate on information sharing and problem solving, we are going to get nowhere even faster. We cannot afford to change and we should not change the Clean Air Act without knowing the likely outcome of our actions.

Let's assume for a moment that we all want the same things. We want to stop acid rain. We want to reduce mercury-related fish contamination and birth defects. We want to start dealing with manmade global warming. Most importantly, we want cleaner, clearer air as soon as we can get it.

We can achieve all those goals in a four-pollutant bill. We can do even better than the Clean Air Act at full implementation if we have the will and the courage. But doing less than the Clean Air Act would provide is simply backsliding.

I will soon be introducing an alternative to the President's proposal with Senators COLLINS, LIEBERMAN and others. This legislation is a better and much more accurate response to the environmental and public health problems that our Nation faces.

In the coming days and weeks, I will take to the floor to discuss the need for strong legislation.

I will continue my efforts to obtain information that the administration continues to withhold. This regards the legal, public health and environmental effects of their deregulation efforts as well as their three-pollutant approach.

A detailed chronology of correspondence on our New Source Review requests appears in the RECORD of January 21st.

On Tuesday evening, the EPA Administrator called to tell me the President would speak on the Clear Skies proposal in the State of the Union. She said she hopes we can work together. I don't doubt Governor Whitman's sincerity. But, so far, "working together" on environmental policy has been an alien concept for this White House. Instead, they have left Congress, the States, the environmentalists, and the people, in a public relations haze.

Progress will be much easier and swifter if we can really work together honestly and without all the smoke and mirrors. That is the only way to approach these severe public health and environmental problems. That is why a four-pollutant bill is necessary.

I point to the chart and urge people to look at this chart which demonstrates very clearly what would happen if we leave things the way we are or if we put the "Clear Skies" in. We are much better off to leave the Clean Air Act where it is than we are to do anything. But we will be producing and bringing forward at a future time our four-pollutant bill, again, which will do even more than the present Clean Air Act and does not degrade or lessen the Clean Air Act.

I urge everyone to be very alert about what is going on in the environmental legislation because it could get better and save lives or it could knock it out.

I yield the floor.

DAVID HOPPE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to join many of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to thank Dave Hoppe for his service to the Senate and to wish him well as he continues to pursue new opportunities.

One of the reasons we will miss Dave is because he exemplifies the best of the Senate—a place where we can find compromise, a place where we can disagree passionately, but one where we can do so honestly, and amicably.

From personal experience, I can tell you that Dave is a gifted negotiator, and, when necessary, a tough adversary.

But I can also tell you that much of what I admire about him—much of what we all admire about him—transcends his political skill, and his legislative prowess. It is his decency.

In 1997, Dave drew on his personal experience, and became integral in bringing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act into being. In talking about the issue of disability in our society, Bob Dole once said, "some issues transcend politics, foster a bipartisan spirit, and result in legislation that makes a real and lasting difference."

Because of Dave, disability education is one of those issues.

And, as Dave leaves, I think we could modify Bob Dole's words. There are some people who transcend politics, foster a bipartisan spirit, and make a

real and lasting difference. Dave is one of those people.

So, Dave, I want to thank you, congratulate you, and wish you and Karen—and Katie and Geoffrey and Gregory—all the best in the years ahead.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:26 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 6:59 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CHAMBLISS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the statements of Senators HARKIN and DURBIN be printed as in executive session.

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

NOMINATION OF JOHN W. SNOW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, pursuant to that unanimous consent request, I would like to take the floor for a few moments and then yield to my friend Senator HARKIN.

This evening, we are considering the nomination of John Snow to be the Secretary of the Treasury. It is a very important position, one of the most important in the President's Cabinet. I have had the opportunity on two occasions now to sit down with Mr. Snow and discuss with him a number of issues, but in particular one that I would address this evening. After these conversations, I am happy to report I will be supporting his nomination as Secretary of the Treasury. He will have an awesome responsibility in this post. I hope he can rise to that challenge. His resume shows that he can and that he will serve our Nation with pride.

The particular issue which drew us together last night and again this evening is one that Senator HARKIN has been the leader on for many years. Literally millions of Americans have pension plans which they have worked long and hard to maintain in their place of employment. The traditional defined-benefit plan is one where someone works for a company for a certain number of years and the company promised that at retirement they would pay them a certain amount of money. That is the retirement plan with which most people are familiar. That is the basic and traditional approach. But over the years retirement plans have changed. They have become more like 401(k)s or savings plans or investment plans, and those are known