

COMMITTEE FUNDING LEVELS

Mr. FRIST. On January 6, I engaged in a colloquy with the distinguished Democratic Leader, Senator REID, concerning the budget assumptions for the next committee funding biennial period, subject to appropriations. I stated that the committee funding budget assumes an across-the-board freeze budget, with salary baselines adjusted by COLAs of 3.71 percent in 2005 as approved by the President pro tempore in early January; 3.3 percent assumed for 2006, and 3.5 percent assumed for 2007, although both the 2006 and 2007 actual COLA amounts remain subject to the approval of the President pro tempore.

Based on preliminary calculations, both Senator REID and I assumed certain funding levels, subject to appropriations. We have now received final financial calculations for an across-the-board freeze including the previously identified COLAs. To achieve our fiscal goal, aggregate funding levels would be: March 1, 2005–September 30, 2005: \$51,783,793; October 1, 2005–September 30, 2006: \$90,923,102; and October 1, 2006–February 28, 2007: \$38,704,409. These funding levels include, but do not separately allocate, the additional 10 percent allocated to the committees in the 108th Congress. I believe this reflects the intent of the negotiation between the Democratic leader and myself.

Mr. REID. The majority leader is correct. The preliminary calculations that we were provided did not accurately reflect our goal of an across-the-board freeze including the COLAs. The aggregate funding levels identified today by the majority leader accurately reflect the intent of our agreement.

Mr. FRIST. I thank the Democratic leader for his comments.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE DISPONETT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today as our Nation celebrates the 55th Presidential Inauguration to pay tribute to Mr. Dave Disponett, a fellow Kentuckian who is in Washington, DC to attend his sixth inauguration.

Dave is a dedicated member of the Republican Party—a man I am glad to have on my team. He has been a witness to history with the swearing in of President Richard Nixon in 1969, President Ronald Reagan in 1981 and 1985, President George H.W. Bush in 1989, President George W. Bush in 2001 and again today, January 20, 2005.

Dave is in the Nation's capital today with his wife, daughter, son-in-law and 10-year old granddaughter—who is already following in her grandfather's footsteps by attending her second Presidential Inauguration.

Earlier this week USA Today published a story about Dave and his family, "Kentucky Family Hears Inaugural Call." I ask unanimous consent that the full article be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From USA Today, January 17, 2005]

KENTUCKY FAMILY HEARS INAUGURAL CALL

(By Bill Nichols)

LAWRENCEBURG, KY.—When Franklin Roosevelt was sworn in as president for the third time in 1941 under the shadow of potential U.S. entry into world war, the program read: "Inaugurals take their drama from the temper of the times."

Dave Disponett, a builder and passionate Republican activist in this traditionally Democratic city of just under 10,000, agrees.

On Thursday, when President Bush takes the oath of office for a second term, Disponett, 69, will attend his sixth inauguration with his wife, daughter, son-in-law and 10-year-old granddaughter—who is on inauguration No. 2.

The Disponett clan, like thousands of other visitors who are descending on Washington, are bracing for a very different inauguration this year. "I imagine there are going to be lines everywhere, but what can you do?" Disponett says. It is the nation's first since the Sept. 11 attacks, and extraordinary security precautions are in place.

But as demonstrated by the treasure trove of inaugural memories and memorabilia—ball tickets, programs and photographs—that Disponett has saved, this mix of pageantry and politics always manages, for good or bad, to reflect the mood of the nation. Spectators seem to come for a party but end up with a little piece of time.

In 1969, Disponett watched friends climb a light pole on a Washington street to avoid Vietnam protesters who had thronged to Richard Nixon's inauguration. The trip marked Disponett's first time on an airplane; he was 33.

Twelve years later, he was moved to tears as crowds listened to transistor radios to hear news of the release of the U.S. hostages in Iran as Ronald Reagan was sworn in 1981.

"That was the most exciting day of my life," Disponett remembers. His daughter Lois Ann, 47, who attended her first inauguration at the age of 10, says the experiences she had were almost impossible to explain to her schoolmates back in Lawrenceburg. "Most people couldn't grasp it," she says of the celebrities and dazzling gowns. "It was just a world totally beyond their comprehension." She felt, she says, like a real-life Cinderella.

SECURITY CONCERNS

Inaugural historian Jerry Wallace, retired from the National Archives, points out that heightened security for the ceremony is not new. Both of Abraham Lincoln's inaugurations found troops on Washington's streets, and the 1861 event was held under threat of assassination. Woodrow Wilson's 1917 inauguration, held as the United States considered entering the First World War, also was marked by a show of force.

Wallace worries, however, that precautions for this year's event could dampen the ability of average Americans to enjoy the day.

At least 6,000 police officers—some of them heavily armed—will patrol Washington's streets, searching ticket holders and onlookers as F-16s, F-15s and military helicopters patrol the skies.

"I find all this security just very oppressive," Wallace says. "The whole dynamic behind an inaugural is not to be exclusive at all."

Charlie Brotman, a 77-year-old Washington public relations executive who has been the Inaugural Parade announcer for the past 48 years, says security for the presidential viewing stands on the stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House will be tighter than any he has experienced. Brotman believes, however, that earlier

stretches of the parade will still be quite accessible to the public.

Phyllis Clark, school services coordinator for Flowing Wells School District in Tucson, will be bringing several dozen eighth-graders to the inauguration for the second time. She worries that her kids won't be able to tour the White House because of the security. "This year I told the kids that I really don't think we'll get to go in," she says.

But Clark also says the event is also an opportunity to show young people that they have to live their lives to the fullest, even in an age of terrorism. "We'll still go. And if something happens, we'll look after each other and take care of each other," Clark says. "We can't be so afraid that we don't go anywhere."

NOT GIVING IN TO TERROR

The Disponetts couldn't agree more. Last week, they were busy preparing for their trip to Washington. Ten-year-old Anna-Marie, the daughter of Lois Ann Disponett and husband Todd Hyatt, recently found her coveted \$80 ball gown on sale for \$20 at a Louisville department store.

Dave Disponett's rising influence as a GOP activist and fundraiser in Kentucky has given his family increasingly better inaugural access since their first trip in 1969, which Dave and his wife, Brenda, believe was their first trip outside Kentucky. Campaign finance records show Disponett gave \$2,000 to the Bush re-election campaign last year, while Brenda gave \$2,750 to the National Federation of Republican women.

Disponett's life as a Republican began in 1953, when he went to register to vote and was told by an Anderson County clerk that there was no point in registering as a Republican since no Republican candidates could get elected in Lawrenceburg. That struck Disponett as not exactly in the democratic spirit, so he registered Republican. In 1967, he helped elect Louis Nunn as Kentucky's first Republican governor in 24 years. That began Disponett's side career as a Republican Party power broker, which facilitated his family's ritual of watching a president get sworn in.

RICH MEMORIES

That first year, in 1969, the Disponetts didn't go to Inaugural Balls, because, they recall, they couldn't afford the \$100 tickets. They were also fairly dazzled by the Washington scene.

The family didn't go attend Nixon's second-term inauguration in 1973 because of financial reasons, but headed back in 1981 for Reagan's first inauguration. They remember the excitement of the crowd when the 52 U.S. hostages were released by Iran, and that the National Christmas Tree—kept dark because of the hostage crisis—was turned on at last. "I get goose bumps just thinking about it," Lois Ann says.

By 1981, Dave Disponett also was on his way to becoming a GOP insider. He has a signed photograph of Reagan from the occasion, on the back of which is a note from the late Lee Atwater, Reagan's political director. In 1985, the Disponetts were connected enough to have been invited to attend balls, though Lois Ann says she was surprised that they were so crowded and featured so little dancing. From George H.W. Bush's inauguration in 1989, Dave Disponett proudly shows an unopened commemorative bottle of Korbel champagne, which he bought for \$25. After eight years of Democratic rule, the family returned to their inaugural haunts in 2001, where they had the pick of events because Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, was a key inaugural organizer.

That year also marked Anna-Marie's inaugural debut. And while she fell asleep in her father's arms during President Bush's inaugural address, the experience does seem to