

hot sauce in his desk drawer. After the 116 Club, the Szechuan Pavilion was one of his favorite restaurants. The second involves his friend, great friend Mike "Mad Dog" Madigan, who served with him on the Watergate Committee.

The story goes that one time in Manhattan, NY, of all places in the apartment of Fidel Castro's mistress, in the course of casual conversation, Mike Madigan said something that upset Ms. Marita, something she took as a challenge to her own personal integrity. She pulled a Derringer from her brassiere and threatened to shoot them both. It was a tense moment. Mike tried to dive under the couch over against the wall. Fortunately, Mike and Howard got out of there unharmed and with a great story to tell.

We all greatly admired Howard. When I became majority leader, I called him on a very late cold December night and asked him to be my chief of staff, and to my great, good, wonderful fortune, he said yes, and he brought incredible insight and judgment. Through his personal leadership, integrity, and generosity, he inspired us all.

He valued character. He valued honesty. He valued grace. Above all, he valued faith. Howard was loved and respected by individuals across the Capitol complex from Members to doorkeepers to photographers to the hundreds of Senate staffers, old and young, Democrat and Republican. Howard was a remarkable person who led a remarkable life.

Howard used to sign off his e-mails with the words "all good wishes." I know I speak for the entire Senate family when I say our hearts are full of good wishes for Howard and his family. We are blessed to have had him in our lives, and we will miss him dearly.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the distinguished Republican leader leaves the Senate floor, I wish to express to him through the Chair my appreciation for the kind and very thoughtful words about our friend Howard.

Howard Liebengood represents what the Senate is all about. Spread throughout the Senate, we have hundreds of people who work for us every day who are just like him, extremely well educated. If their goal in life was to see how much money they could make, they would not be working here. They do it because they have a sense of public service, as indicated with his record.

The Senator's kind words about Howard today are words that can be directed to each one of the people who work for us. He was what the Senate is all about. He not only should be but is a role model for what the Senate staffers, as we call them, try to be. If they completed their term of service having given up the fruits of how much money they could make outside the Senate and were thought of as Howard was thought of, I believe their lives would be complete.

I thank the leader very much. As I said, his remarks not only spoke of a

good man but are representative of what the Senate is all about.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full time in morning business for the majority and minority be given. The standing order was that we would go to the Gutierrez nomination at 3, but I ask that that time be extended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTRODUCTION OF REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP AMENDMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we honor the tradition of defining our party's agenda for this Congress. I take this duty seriously. Because I take our times seriously.

We live during an extraordinary moment not only in the history of America, but in the history of the world. And it is my goal—and the goal of my caucus—to look to the future and seize the opportunities that such times offer.

Social Security has been one of the great triumphs in the history of our government. It has lifted millions of seniors from poverty into dignity and provided an essential safety net for disabled citizens.

But soon our Social Security system will be unable to sustain itself. A program created for security will itself become insecure.

Social Security works well for those at or near retirement. And, for these men and women, Social Security must remain the same and provide the same benefits.

But for future retirees, the future is less certain. That is, of course, if we fail to act. Then we will know the outcome: the retirement of the baby boom generation will place an unsustainable burden on younger Americans.

The President is right to call on the Congress to rise to this crisis. I believe we have an opportunity to rise above partisanship, to do what is right rather than what is expedient, and to leave a legacy of leadership for our children.

This Congress will continue to meet the challenge of our generation, to fight and win the war on terror.

I would like to thank Chairman COLLINS for her tremendous leadership last Congress. She successfully completed the first major overhaul of our intelligence services in a generation.

We will continue to look to her as she undertakes the important task of ensuring that we commit our resources where the threat is greatest.

Today, we will introduce legislation that honors our service men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice. They have given all to our Nation and the cause liberty; and we will give more to better care for the ones they loved.

I'm grateful for the hard work of many Senators in this effort, particu-

larly that of Senators SESSIONS, HAGEL, DEWINE, ALLEN, and our two able chairmen, Senators WARNER and CRAIG.

I look forward to their continued contributions on behalf of the members of our armed services.

This bill will also enhance our efforts to secure our Nation against biological threats and gives law enforcement the tools they need to better defend us at home, both by more quickly providing cutting edge technologies and by enhancing laws to protect our citizens. I appreciate Senator SESSIONS' leadership in the area of protecting our mass transit system against terrorist attacks. Included in this leadership proposal is the Railroad Carriers and Mass Transportation Act, a bill he authored last Congress and also incorporated into the Tools to Fight Terrorism Act introduced by Senate leadership.

Our Nation's security does not rest on our military might alone. A growing economy, educational opportunities, and access to affordable health care are all essential to keep our country strong and our citizens secure.

We should begin by examining the Federal Tax Code. Our tax system should raise revenue in a simple, efficient, fair and predictable manner.

Unfortunately, this is far from today's reality.

Consider the facts: Everyday Americans spend 23 percent more time filling out tax forms today than 8 years ago. In that time, the total number of pages of Federal tax rules have grown by almost half. And one leading tax preparation firm is making 150 percent more money.

We look forward to reviewing the findings of the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform. We will take action. We will simplify our laws, keep our commitment to a progressive Tax Code, and promote savings and growth.

Clearly, adopting a comprehensive energy policy and reforming our tort system are cornerstones of economic growth. I believe that we have a real opportunity to work across party lines on these issues.

Chairman DOMENICI has renewed his efforts to bring a bill through the Energy Committee and we look forward to results. The Senate will soon begin its debate on class action reform. It is an important place to start. Our tort system costs our economy nearly \$250 billion per year. That's the equivalent of an \$844 "tort tax" on every American. This bill will be an early success. I'm grateful for the hard work on both sides of the aisle that have gone into this important initiative.

We cannot afford to let lingering concerns about a tax increase on small businesses stall our economic growth.

The President's economic stimulus package was exactly the right medicine at the right time for a faltering economy. From day one it has led to steady growth. We need to make those tax cuts permanent so we can keep our economy growing and creating jobs.