

encourage the right of every American to express his or her views and keep this Nation on the track that has carried us so well for so long.

I close with a poem Arthur Nicholas Hosking, "Land of the Free." I wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July.

America, O Power benign, great hearts revere your name, You stretch your hand to every land, to weak and strong the same; You claim no conquest by the sea, nor conquest of the field, But conquest for the rights of man, that despoils all shall yield.

America, staunch, undismayed, your spirit is our might; No splendor falls on feudal walls upon your mountain's height, But shafts of Justice pierce your skies to light the way for all, A world's great brotherhood of man, that cannot, must not fall.

America, in God we trust, we fear no tyrant's horde; There's light that leads toward better deeds than conquest by the sword; Yet our cause is just, if fight we must until the world be free Of every menace, breed, or caste that strikes at Liberty.

America, home of the brave, our song in praise we bring—Where Stars and Stripes the winds unfurl, 'tis there that tributes ring; Our fathers gave their lives that we should live in Freedom's light Our lives we consecrate to thee, our guide the Might of Right.

Mr. President, I hope that all the Senate family will have a safe, joyous Fourth of July

THE BUILDING OF THE SHIP

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!
We know what Master laid thy keel,
What Workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,
In what a forge and what a heat
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'Tis of the wave and not the rock;
'Tis but the flapping of the sail,
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee,—are all with thee!

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Mr. BYRD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALLEN. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

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

SECURING OUR INDEPENDENCE

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, as we all depart in celebration of our Declara-

tion of Independence, our secession from the British monarchy, let us, as Senators and as Americans, assess what should be accomplished to secure our independence and, most importantly, the ideals and the freedom that need to be secured, as was expressed in our Declaration of Independence, authored by Thomas Jefferson 260 years ago.

The people of America are the owners of our Government, and they expect us to do certain things. I hope when we return, after the Independence Day celebration, one of the first things we will recognize is we are a nation of laws, we are a nation of immigrants. We will recognize that at Monticello, Mr. Jefferson's home where there is always an Independence Day naturalization ceremony there, which is always so inspiring. For those of us who believe we should have immigration reform, that is how people should become citizens in this country—legally.

The American people have noticed our country has, for far too long, neglected to secure our borders. The first thing we need to do, when we get back, is to find the funds for border personnel, for detention center capacity, for a fence, for sensors. We need to make sure this is Nation of laws, and a Nation of immigrants, that has been built by immigrants, and improved by immigrants.—My mother is an immigrant, so I appreciate the value and the improvements and the promise of America that have been born by so many people who have come to this country from some other land.

But the American people expect us to do our job. The first responsibility of a government is security. And we need to secure our borders.

Secondly, dealing with independence, is our energy. We are far too dependent as a country on foreign sources of energy. We need to—and I think we can do it—help out not just short term but long term in a policy that has our country less dependent on foreign sources of energy. We need more production of oil and natural gas here at home. Some of it can be in deep waters far off our coast. I would like to share some of those royalties and revenues with the people in the States so they can share in some of the benefits while also making sure we have more oil and natural gas from this country.

For my Commonwealth of Virginia, on a bipartisan basis, our legislature, 2 years running, has passed a measure to allow the Commonwealth of Virginia to opt out of the moratorium or the prohibition of deep sea, deep water offshore exploration. Georgia may want another approach; Louisiana would take a different approach—but if a State were able to share in the royalties. For Virginia I would like to have one-quarter of those royalties go to colleges and universities; and it could be used for scholarships for, young people who have attributes or desires to study and be proficient in science, in technology and engineering, where

there is such a great demand for people with those talents and skills in our country.

Then, I would take 50 percent and use it for transportation and roads. There are great needs for roads. And if we were getting hundreds of millions of dollars, 50 percent of it ought to go for transportation and roads and highways in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

And then a quarter of it would go to coastal communities, say, Virginia Beach, for example, that would probably use the money they get for sand or beach replenishment on our coast.

In addition to developing more oil and natural gas in this country, we also ought to recognize that we are the "Saudi Arabia" of the world in coal, and we ought to be using clean coal technology for electricity generation. Clean coal technology, in fact, can be used in a way that could be gasified to be like a natural gas and could be used as a fuel similar to diesel fuel.

Natural gas is so important for us for the manufacturing of everything from tires to plastics, to chemicals and fertilizers and forestry products. To be using natural gas for baseload electricity generation, as I have said, is like using bottled water to wash our dishes. It will do the job, but why would you want to use such a clean-burning fuel—which is so important for jobs and manufacturing jobs here in this country, as well as for heating our homes—for electricity generation when we can be using clean-coal technology?

We also ought to be using advanced nuclear technologies for electricity generation.

Beyond that, there are other advancements in technology. With nanotechnology, there are solar powers, solar photovoltaics, which makes more sense now and are much more efficient. There are lithium ion batteries. We can also grow some of our fuels, biofuels, particularly soy diesel. Ethanol in some areas of the corn belt makes a great deal of sense. But I think soy diesel as well as cellulosic biofuels also make a great deal of sense.

My colleagues, not any one of these will solve our energy dependence situation. But if we have diversity of fuels, and more of these fuels and more of this energy grown in America—explored and developed and produced in America for American jobs and American competitiveness and American security—that will improve this country's energy independence rather than having to worry about the whims of some mullah 8,000 miles away.

So let us resolve on this Independence Day week to find ways and actually adopt energy independence policies. We also need to recognize who the owners of the Government are; and that is the people. We ought to be working to lessen the burden, the tax burden, on working people, on families, on family businesses, and on family farms.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I also want to speak at length on a very important matter that I hope will also come to a vote on the floor of this Senate shortly; and that is the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. I am pleased this bill is moving through the committee process, and I commend Chairman ARLEN SPECTER, who is moving on yet another important piece of legislation this session.

The enactment of the Voting Rights Act was absolutely necessary 41 years ago and was initially passed during a very tumultuous time in our country's history. In fact, the Voting Rights Act should have been passed many years before then. But history has proven that the law was just and appropriate to provide equal opportunities and protections to persons with the desire to express themselves at the ballot box.

This is completely consistent with the spirit of the Declaration of Independence. And I believe we are all better off for the choices that were made back 41 years ago. And that has strengthened the fabric of our country. It has helped make us a more perfect union, and made us stronger as a country as we face challenges presently.

The present legislation before us reauthorizes several key sections of the Voting Rights Act that will expire next year if no action is taken. The expiring parts are section 5, section 203, and sections 6 through 9.

This legislation helps ensure the fundamental right of all eligible citizens to vote. It sends a strong message that no matter what your race, religion, gender, or national origin, if you are a law-abiding citizen you have the right to vote. At the core of representative democracy is the participation of informed people. The people are the owners of this Government.

While the U.S. Constitution surely guarantees the right to vote, legislation was and is still necessary to ensure that in practice that guarantee is never diminished. My Commonwealth of Virginia has come a long way since this law was first enacted, and a reauthorization is necessary to ensure this progress continues throughout the United States, from Florida to New York to Alaska.

Now, some will argue that counties and cities and States cannot be removed from or "bail out" of the preclearance aspects of this if they so desire and have a good record on voting rights. Now, the facts are, though, that—and I am just speaking for the Commonwealth of Virginia—11 cities and counties in Virginia have been able to "bail out" of the Voting Rights Act by proving that "no [racial] test or device has been used within such State or political subdivision for the purpose or with the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color." The counties in Virginia that have been removed from preclearance review are—in alphabetical order—Au-

gusta, Frederick, Greene, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren, and the cities of Fairfax, Harrisonburg, and Winchester.

Renewal of the act does not mean that the reauthorizing States still engage in voter discrimination on the basis of race. Renewal should instead be viewed as a continued unflagging commitment to ensuring the protection of a law-abiding persons's right to vote without subversion or unwarranted interference.

The Voting Rights Act is a real and visible commitment made to ensure that voter discrimination will be stamped out and effectively prohibited if and when it does occur. Great strides have been made in ending voter discrimination in all of its forms since the Voting Rights Act was passed. It should also be noted that recognizing and addressing these problems is the appropriate prudent approach. It is responsible rather than ignoring those problems.

Thanks in part to the Voting Rights Act, Virginia was the first State in the Nation to popularly elect the first Governor who is an African American. I hope after this November's elections, Virginia is not still the only State with this record, and that there will be two States that have elected Governors who are African Americans.

Now, the election in Virginia, represented an inspirational success for a person, L. Douglas Wilder, who persevered and won that election. It was also an achievement for a State that only decades earlier had counties that closed their public schools rather than integrate them to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of education*.

My friend and colleague in the other body, Representative JOHN LEWIS, and I recently returned from a pilgrimage to Farmville, VA, as part of a group organized by the Faith and Politics Institute. During this pilgrimage, and previous pilgrimages I have taken to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, AL, we heard first-hand stories from still-living civil rights leaders and also personal heartbreaking stories from people about the impediments faced by African Americans as they grew up with the racial discrimination that existed at that time.

Now, as we strive for a society where all people are judged by the content of their character rather than by the color of their skin, we must join together in our great country of promise to make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate and to succeed. Reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act is a tool that has, can, and will help achieve this goal of fairness. I am committed and dedicated to ensuring that the voting rights of all law-abiding Americans are protected, and the Voting Rights Act has proven to be an able vessel for accomplishing this important objective.

I urge my colleagues to bring this important piece of legislation to the

Senate floor as soon as practicable this summer so we can debate the issues and amendments and ultimately renew the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. President, I wish my colleagues and all Americans a happy, safe, and patriotic Independence Day. With our friends and families, let's reflect on our foundational values that must be preserved. And a lot of these values need to be preserved from monarchical judges who prevent the pledge of allegiance in schools because of the words "under God," but, on the other hand, allow the desecration of the flag.

We have judges who redefine the institution of marriage, but allow local government officials, in a place like New London, CT, to act like lords—the reason we seceded from the monarchy—among those lords in New London, CT, to take people's homes—the American dream—using eminent domain, not because there was a public purpose of a school or a road to be built, but because they wanted to derive more tax revenue off of that property and that land.

As Senators, let us return to act to secure our borders, develop energy independence, confirm sound judges, and renew the Voting Rights Act to make sure this is a land of opportunity for all.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO DR. GENE SIMON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man for whom I have great respect: Dr. Gene Simon.

Tomorrow, June 30, Dr. Simon will retire after 31 years of exceptional service as chief executive officer of Chaddock, a nationally acclaimed, faith-based, child welfare agency in Quincy, IL.

In the New Testament, James, the disciple of Jesus, tells us, "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Gene Simon has taken that Bible lesson to heart his whole life. He has taken action. For more than 30 years, he has provided a home and food and clothing for children who might otherwise have had nowhere to turn.

Chaddock serves more than 6,500 people a year—children and families. Many of the young people Chaddock helps are at-risk. Some have endured serious abuse or neglect. Chaddock provides outpatient and residential treatment and the help young people and their families need to heal.