

the amendment if it were, in fact, prospective.

The amendment has a complicating factor in addition to that; that is, there is a prohibition against any official contact with any spouse of a Member who is a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act. That is not any lobbying contact, it is official contact. Now, what is official contact? Does this mean the spouse, if he or she happens to have been a lobbyist for a substantial period of time, cannot attend the Supreme Court dinner which just took place? That could be interpreted as an official contact. Is it an official contact if the individual calls the scheduler of her husband's or his wife's office and asks for some information on the schedule? I am surprised—and I didn't know this—that this amendment has the words "official contact." You can be sure that even if it said: Well, it is not an official contact, that someone will make the argument: Oh yes, it is an official contact if you attend the Supreme Court dinner with your spouse.

Again, I would repeat, this is retroactive legislation. We know it affects people in this body who have worked, helped support their families. I don't recall another time when we have enacted this kind of legislation.

So it concerns me, and it concerns me if it is overly repressive, such as using the words "official contact." I am puzzled as to why, when the majority leader offered that if it had a grandfather clause, we would accept it, it wasn't taken, unless the intent is essentially to sever people from their ability to have anything to do with this body, whether it is simply as a spouse or as a professional.

So I have some concerns about this amendment, and I wanted to take this opportunity to express them, and hopefully the author will respond.

Mr. VITTER. Will the Senator yield?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I certainly will.

Mr. VITTER. I thank the distinguished Senator from California for those points and questions. Let me respond to each one.

First, I think what you said, literally at the very beginning of your comments, says it all. You said this would be fine if it didn't affect anyone, but it does. This would be window dressing if it didn't affect anyone, if it did not do anything. But, yes, it does. And it should.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Will the Senator yield, please?

Mr. VITTER. I will be happy to, after I finish my comment.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Because I said "presently employed," if I may, through the Chair. To clarify that, I said anybody "presently employed." We know it affects people. We know it would affect people in the future. We also know it affects people presently employed.

Mr. VITTER. Reclaiming my time, the point is, yes, it is a great vote as long as it doesn't affect anyone here, as

long as it doesn't affect anyone in the body now, as long as it doesn't affect any spouse.

I disagree. If it is a conflict, it is a conflict. If it is a problem, it is a problem. Having done it in the past doesn't cure the conflict, doesn't cure the problem. I think demanding that a grandfather clause be attached to this is the height of cynicism. We are going to reform things as long as it doesn't affect us. I think that is bad policy and I certainly think it is a very negative message to send to the American people—although it may be a rather clear message about what this debate and exercise is all about.

In terms of the question about official contact, I think that is very clear because it is in the context of the lobbyist disclosure law. It is in the context of lobbyist contact. However, if the Senator continues to believe it is not clear and wants to offer any clarifying language, I would look at that and work with the Senator. I will be happy to work on clarifying language. Obviously, no one wants to prohibit spouses from going to the Supreme Court dinner or anything else. I think that is a relatively—I don't think it is a problem. But even if you think it is one, I believe it is an easy problem to solve.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. If the Senator will yield for a moment.

Mr. VITTER. Certainly.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Through the Chair, on line 5, if you substituted "lobbying" for "official," I think that would do it.

Mr. VITTER. I will be happy to look at that and respond to that suggestion. Certainly, if there is any ambiguity there, and I don't think there is, I will be eager to clarify it and work on it.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Senator.

Mr. VITTER. Again, I think this goes to the heart of the matter. I think this grandfather clause issue goes to the heart of the matter. Are we going to do something that "doesn't affect anybody," that doesn't matter in terms of people here and now and make a big show of it or are we going to make a difference and stop practices that the huge majority of the American people think are a real problem?

I hope we are going to do the latter. I hope we are going to be real and substantive and not go through a PR exercise, and I think the American people are watching to find out. I think this, among other votes, will be a clarifying moment.

I thank the Senator for her questions and I look forward to continuing the discussion.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, if I may, I thank the Senator. Perhaps our staffs can get together directly and take a look at this. I appreciate it.

p.m. having arrived, the Senate will stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:34 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CLINTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to proceed as in morning business.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY STETSON

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, one of the best things about the Senate and the character of this place and the opportunity it provides all of us is we are privileged to work with people as our experts on our committees and our aides who, even more than many of us, dedicate decades to this institution and to the causes that bring them to public service.

They do it selflessly, never seeking the headlines but always trying to shape those headlines, making contributions that are most often left in the unwritten history of this institution and of the country.

The fact is, though, as my colleagues know, it is these individuals and their commitment that really writes that history and makes an unbelievable contribution to the country as a whole.

One such person I have had the privilege of working with for the entire time I have been here, for 22-plus years. No one is a more dedicated, harder working, more idealistic, passionate, and effective example of that special kind of public service than Dr. Nancy Stetson of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who is retiring this year after over 25 years of remarkable service—groundbreaking service, really—to the Senate.

As a young and idealistic doctoral student, Nancy first came to Washington to work on her thesis and to ask the question whether a single legislator could make a difference in the shaping of American foreign policy. Her subject was Senator "Scoop" Jackson and the long record that he amassed in the Cold War through the legislation that to this day bears his name, the Jackson-Vanik waiver.

Nancy found that on Capitol Hill, despite the Historians' fixation on the rise and fall of the imperial Presidency, one Senator can make a lasting impact on America's role in the world. But it has really been for her role to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and to me personally that I want to pay her tribute today.

She began working for Senator Pell from her beloved home State of Rhode Island and, then, of course, for Chairman BIDEN. I really inherited her in a sense from Senator Pell because when we came into the majority in 1986, Senator Pell was a chairman who believed in delegating responsibility. I was then the chairman of one of the subcommittees that had jurisdiction over the

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30