

the Democratic side, have done an exceptionally good bipartisan job to move the rescue legislation forward here in the Senate. Their work continues as we speak. I will also continue to work closely with the minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, as well as our counterparts in the House of Representatives. We are all committed to keeping the progress on this rescue package moving forward. So in the coming days, I will continue doing everything possible to see that this dire and avoidable financial crisis moves to the best possible outcome and toward a future of stability and growth for our country. I am going to have a meeting within an hour with the Senators I have just spoken about on the Democratic side. They have extremely good contacts on the Republican side.

I wish to say, Mr. President, that I thought the statement made yesterday by JUDD GREGG was an extremely good statement. JUDD GREGG is the past chairman of the Budget Committee and someone both sides respect for his knowledge of finances. So I commend and applaud Senator GREGG for his statement.

I am hopeful and I am confident that all sides, House and Senate and White House, will work together to achieve a goal that will be good for the American people.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I think the majority leader set precisely the right tone. I, too, want to reassure the American people that we intend to pass this legislation this week. We will pass it on a broad bipartisan basis, both sides cooperating, to prevent this financial crisis from persisting.

The message from the markets yesterday was clear. The time for finger-pointing indeed has come to an end. As the senior Senator from Tennessee likes to remind us, this is not the time to fix the blame, this is the time to fix the problem. Those also are the words of Senator MCCAIN, with whom I spoke yesterday, who is in exactly the same place as all of us are on a bipartisan basis.

So we will get the job done, we will get it done this week, and I think, hopefully, that will reassure the American people that Congress can rise to the occasion—act like grownups, if you will—and get the job done for all of our people.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

PETE DOMENICI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a lot of people think they know Senator PETE

DOMENICI. They know him as a man who has been a leader in the Senate for decades on energy issues, and he was the chairman of that committee, and on budget issues, and he has been the chairman of that committee. He is a man who has been a leader on the Appropriations Committee. I have known Senator DOMENICI in that regard, as have the American people, but what I think is so interesting about PETE DOMENICI is a side that a lot of people don't know about him. Here is a man who can talk about Wall Street, he can talk about financial markets, he can talk about the budgetary problems facing this country, but in a personal, private conversation, he can talk about baseball.

Here is a man who was a star athlete. He was a great baseball player. As a young man, he played American Legion Baseball. I played American Legion Baseball, but PETE's team was good. Mine wasn't so good. PETE led his team to the regional championship.

American Legion Baseball used to be the baseball for young men.

They did not have all the State tournaments they had in high schools, so in the summer, the best athletes would get together, the best baseball players would get together and play American Legion ball, and the winter regional championship was significant.

Senator DOMENICI went on to letter all 4 years, of course, in high school. He was a standout pitcher for the University of New Mexico, and he was All Conference. His final year he had a record of 14 and 3. That is quite a record. In those days, when Senator DOMENICI was in high school and college, they would play a lot of games, as they do now. A record of 14 and 3 is a very significant record.

But that was not the end of his career. He went on to play professional baseball. After college he played for the hometown crowd as a left-handed pitcher for the Albuquerque Dukes. I know he must have had a great fastball and a great curveball to accomplish what he did in baseball. But in the Senate, PETE DOMENICI does not throw curveballs, it is the high hard one all the time. He is a person who tells people how he feels.

With my long-time relationship with Senator DOMENICI, I only had one problem my entire career with PETE DOMENICI. That was a time when—I, frankly, do not remember whether I was the ranking member of the subcommittee or the chairman of the subcommittee because we went back and forth often. That was the Energy and Water Subcommittee of Appropriations.

As a relatively young Senator, I had a position of power, and I thought what I would do is go and talk to members of that conference and get the votes. I did it very quietly. I did not say a word to Senator DOMENICI. I surprised everybody. I called for a vote unexpectedly and I won. Senator DOMENICI did not say a word to me there publicly. Well,

when that was over, we had a little heart-to-heart talk. He said: We have to work together. If we are going to work together on this subcommittee, I want to tell you something about how we do things in the Senate. We do not surprise each other. If you had a problem with that issue, talk to me. If you have the votes, you do not need to try to embarrass me publicly, you go ahead and do what you need to do.

I learned a great lesson there. I learned a lesson that can only come by someone teaching you, such as when I practiced law. It is not pleasant to talk about, but you learn from your mistakes in the practice of law. When you make a mistake, you never do that again. As a result of the teaching moment I had with Senator DOMENICI, I never, ever did that again. So I appreciate, if for no other reason than that, that one experience with PETE DOMENICI. It made me a better Senator and a better person.

It was very clear that when Senator DOMENICI realized he would not be playing for the New York Yankees, even though he was a good athlete, he decided he would become a teacher. Then he went to law school, and after graduating, PETE DOMENICI entered politics. First, he was elected to the city commission in Albuquerque. Then he climbed up that ladder of local politics and became mayor of Albuquerque and was elected in 1972 as a young man to the Senate.

My relationship with Senator DOMENICI began, my first experience coming to the Senate, in 1986. I was very fortunate that year. I was a brand-new Senator. I got on the Appropriations Committee. As we now know, Senators wait a long time to get on that committee. I was so fortunate that BARBARA MIKULSKI and HARRY REID, two brand-new Senators, were placed on that committee. From that day, I got to know PETE DOMENICI.

My experience on the Appropriations Committee goes back to the day that John Stennis, the Senator from Mississippi, was chairman of that committee. By the time I got to the Senate, he was in very frail health. He had been shot in a robbery, he had lost a leg, he had cancer. So he was very weak.

His chief of staff was a man by the name of John Sullivan. He had been chief of staff of the Judiciary Committee, Armed Services Committee, now the Appropriations Committee. And he called me. After I met Senator Stennis, he called me in his office and said to me: Senator REID, you got on the best committee in the entire Senate. He said: You can do a lot of good things for your State, but do not be greedy.

That was a real good lesson for me. I have always tried to follow that. Senator DOMENICI has been someone I have worked with on that committee. I did not immediately get on the Energy and Water Subcommittee. It takes a while to get on that. That is one of the most