

distinctive Georgia drawl, "I would like to advise that arrangements have been made for simultaneous translation."

He continued (paraphrasing Churchill's great statement), "Our motto will be to wage obfuscation. We will wage obfuscation on the beaches and on the landing fields and in the political arena of America. And when all else fails and we can no longer obfuscate, we will tell the truth to the extent we know it."

We celebrate with deep affection the life of this rare man.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. When leaving the Fifth Circuit, Judge Bell returned to King and Spalding and distinguished himself as one of the country's premier lawyers.

In closing, as I have paid tribute to his distinguished career, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to this wonderful gentleman and friend. As a lawyer, I learned so much from him about the practice of law. As a Congressman and Senator, I learned so much about politics and public service.

As a friend, I enjoyed our visits and conversations. His keen sense of humor has been compared to Mark Twain. As my good friend, Bob Steed—Georgia's very own "Mark Twain"; a real humorist, columnist, and long-time law partner of Judge Bell—said this week of his wisdom and wit:

If he took a position, he'd take it strongly and defend it. But if someone improved it, he was willing to give way. His ego didn't get involved with choices . . . He was sharp to the very end. He told his son that there must be a committee in heaven in charge of dying, because it was taking so long.

That was Judge Bell.

Griffin Bell changed the course of the history of our country. As a judge on the Fifth Circuit, his decisions regarding integration of school systems in Georgia and across the South were a model for integration throughout the Nation. In his role as Attorney General, he did much to restore the public's trust in the Department of Justice. He was a close personal friend of mine, and this is not only a national loss but a personal one as well.

Mr. President, I have before me a commencement speech that he gave at Mercer University Law School in 2002. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

Dr. Godsey, Congressman Chambliss, members of the faculty, families of graduates, graduates and friends:

I congratulate each one of you graduates on having completed law school. Through much study and great effort, you are about to become lawyers. You are about to become members of a privileged class of Americans because as lawyers, you are agreeing to serve your fellow Americans in resolving those kinds of disputes which arise in a free country.

We have many rights and many responsibilities, and lawyers are necessary to resolve the conflicts which arise from time to time with respect to those rights and responsibilities.

In 1835, a young Frenchman by the name of Alexis de Tocqueville came to this country

to study our prison system. He stayed for two years and ended up writing *Democracy in America*, an epic study of our democratic system. He reached many conclusions, and two apply to you.

First, he said that almost every problem that arises in a democracy will eventually be resolved in the court system. This was true then and it is true now.

Second, he said that there was no aristocracy in America, but that the nearest approach to aristocracy was in the lawyer class. His thought was that lawyers occupy an unusual and favored position in our system.

So now that you are about to become aristocrats, I want to give you a short lecture on behavior. We have an ample supply of lawyers in our country, and some of the lawyers overlook the obligation to serve others. They also distort the privilege of practicing law by converting it into a mere occupation. I was taught in law school that a lawyer had ethical obligations well above the morals of the marketplace.

We are privileged to represent others in resolving their problems, but we have to do so with the public interest in mind. We can advise and counsel and defend clients, but we cannot advise or facilitate activities which violate the law. We live in a very complex world where the channels of commerce depend on tax laws, which are often unfathomable. There is a fine line between tax avoiders and tax evaders. Accounting standards can be evaded with the result that the public loses confidence in our business corporations and in the integrity of the marketplace. Lawyers are the watchmen on the wall in the sense that they should say no to clients who engage in such activities.

One of the first duties of a lawyer is to remain detached in any representation to the end that you do not facilitate the breaking of the law. Always err on the side of doing right. You and only you are responsible for your ethics.

You should attach yourself to a mentor at the earliest possible time. Those of you who will be trial lawyers—and that will probably be about half of you—will not have the privilege of being trained as barristers, as would be the case in England, where you would have your training at an Inn of Court. Inns of Court do not teach law, but they teach lawyers how to conduct themselves and how to behave themselves. Once they are certified by their mentors, as knowing how to conduct themselves, they become barristers. If you attach yourself to a mentor who has integrity—and I can assure you that the older lawyers are always glad to help young lawyers—you will absorb those qualities of conduct that will make you into respected lawyers.

The rules of conduct that you should follow in your practice can be simply stated.

1. To a client a lawyer owes undivided allegiance and the utmost application of your learning, skill and industry as well as the employment of all appropriate legal means within the law to protect and enforce the interests of the clients. You should not be deterred by any fear of judicial disfavor or public unpopularity. Nor should you be influenced by self interest.

2. To opposing counsel a lawyer owes a duty of courtesy, candor in all respects—not inconsistent with the clients' interests. You also must scrupulously observe all mutual understandings. Your word is your bond.

3. To the courts you owe respect, diligence, candor and punctuality. You should also work to ensure the independence of the judiciary and protect the courts against unjust and improper criticism. In return, you should expect from the judge and the courts

that you be treated with respect and that your dignity and independence as an officer of the court be maintained. I have always thought it a mark of great distinction that a lawyer in court can make a statement, as they say, "in his or her place" to the court, without the necessity of being put under oath. This is a mark of our professionalism.

4. In the administration of justice, you must abide by the rules and conform to the highest principles of professional rectitude, irrespective of the desires of the clients or others.

5. To the public you owe the duty of making certain that the system for administering justice is fair and efficient, and you should do what you can to improve the system.

6. To the public you also owe the duty of seeing to it that counsel is made available to those who cannot afford counsel either on a pro bono basis or for such fees as can be afforded.

7. Finally, to our country you owe the duty of leadership. You are in the class "to whom much is given, much is expected."

You should arrange your affairs as lawyers so as to have time to be thorough and diligent. The bane of many lawyers may be having too much practice. You do not serve any client well when you lack the time to be thorough and prompt. You are not required to take every matter that is presented to you, but having assumed a representation, it becomes your duty to finish the representation. Sometimes you will make a bad bargain, but as professionals, you are still obligated to carry out the representation.

Someone asked one of my friends when we were in law school why so many of us veterans were going to law school just after World War II. My friend replied that we were hoping to gain a part of the American dream. In most instances, my generation has found the American dream. We have had good, rewarding lives and we have taken great pride in our profession.

I am proud to be a lawyer. I am proud of the fact that my son is a lawyer, and I am proud of the fact that my grandson, a member of this class, is about to become a lawyer. Being a lawyer is an honorable profession, and our obligation is to maintain it with honor.

I feel certain that all of you will have that attitude toward being lawyers, and I wish you well as you go forth now into the practice. I hope that each one of you will find the American dream.

Thank you.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I remember the day very well when Judge Bell gave that commencement speech at Mercer Law School because that day his grandson Griffin, III graduated from Mercer Law School, and my son Bo graduated from Mercer that same day. I was privileged not only to be there to see my son graduate from law school but also to share the dais with Judge Bell and to introduce Judge Bell to make that commencement address.

He was a great American. He was a terrific lawyer with unparalleled credentials, unparalleled integrity, and someone who is going to be missed by our State and by our country.

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR assumed the chair.)

ISRAEL

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I also wish to discuss the security in

the Middle East and to offer my support for Israel. Israel is an important foundation of stability and democracy in the Middle East. The resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is important not only to the peace and security of the Middle East but also to the rest of the world.

The United States and Israel share common principles and a strong commitment to eradicate terrorism and to secure a better future for the world. Israel has been a steadfast ally of the United States and, I assure you, the United States will stand ready to assist our friends, the Israelis, to promote peace, defeat terrorism, and prevent hostile countries that sponsor terrorism from obtaining nuclear weapons.

With hopes for peace and a two-state solution, Israel evacuated all of its citizens and soldiers from Gaza in 2005, including the uprooting of homes, schools, and places of worship. Unfortunately and regrettably, following these actions, the Palestinians failed to develop fully the Gaza Strip and voted into power Hamas, a terrorist organization supported by Iran and whose true objective is to eradicate the state of Israel.

Following years where terror groups in Gaza launched rockets at Israel, targeting the Israeli civilian population, it became clear that it was time for action. After Hamas failed to renew its self-imposed cease-fire—one it, frankly, never enforced fully—Israel was forced to take appropriate action to protect her citizens. To that end, Israel has responded appropriately.

The United States-Israel alliance remains more critical than ever as Israel defends her people and works to end the threat posed from terrorist groups on its borders. The United States and Israel face an unprecedented array of shared threats—from Iran developing a nuclear program with unclear intentions and a clear track record of deceit, to the expanding military capabilities of terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, which are supported by Iran—and security and stability in the Middle East, especially for our ally Israel, has never been more precarious.

I do hope this conflict will soon come to a peaceful conclusion. Nevertheless—and let me be clear—Israel has every right to defend its citizens while taking precautions, to the extent possible, to spare the civilian population in Gaza and reduce collateral damage.

I urge the people of Gaza to reject Hamas and surrender the terrorists' rockets in the most expedient manner to facilitate ending this necessary action by Israel. Israel remains committed to peace talks with the Palestinian Authority, despite Hamas's constant bombardment of Israel and its ineffective control over the Gaza Strip.

In order to improve the prospects for successful and lasting peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians, it is necessary for all Palestinians to work toward a solution. This cannot be done

while Hamas is allowed to rain terror into southern Israel. I encourage the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank to form a legitimate and authoritative body which can speak for all of Palestine, effectuate change, and exercise control over terrorists who reside in their territory. I commend President Abbas for taking part in the international discussions about the situation in Gaza.

I support the necessary requirements of any cease-fire which Secretary Rice discussed before the United Nations. Hamas must end the rocket, mortar, and other attacks on Israel, and Israel can then cease its military offensive and reopen Gaza's border crossings so that Palestinians can benefit from humanitarian goods and basic supplies. Most importantly, the smuggling of weapons into Gaza through hundreds of illegal tunnels must end. The Arab states in the region, especially Egypt, should be a part of this process, and I encourage the Palestinians to seek their guidance and support, and in return for them to offer guidance and political and financial support.

Madam President, with that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Finally, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, today Senator Daschle has come before the HELP Committee for his confirmation hearing as our Secretary designate of Health and Human Services. I know that all of our colleagues and friends in the Senate found it moving and wonderful to see the distinguished chairman of that committee, Senator KENNEDY, back in his chair leading that hearing. We are all delighted to see him back at work in the Senate, and we are delighted to see Senator Daschle back with us in this exciting new capacity.

We know every American deserves health care that he or she can afford. Senator Daschle knows that to do that we need basic systemic reform that will improve the way health care is delivered in this country. Senator Daschle has already brought forward ideas, such as the creation of a Federal health board, that have contributed enormously to the health care reform debate, and I hope very much he will pursue those ideas further at HHS. His nomination and President-elect Obama's creation of a new White House

Office of Health Care Reform emphasize their serious commitment to solving this bedeviling problem. Senator Daschle will bring distinguished, thoughtful leadership to the crisis in our Nation's health care system.

Health care reform is the signal challenge facing our families, our economy, and our Government. I wish to take a few minutes today to speak about this great challenge and the urgent need for action.

We all know the system is broken. The evidence lies all around us—in my State of Rhode Island and across the country. When a lost job is frightening not just because it means lost income but because it means lost health care, our health care system is broken. When sudden illness strikes and insurance will not cover the costs, our health care system is broken. When families wait to see a doctor until it is too late because they have no health insurance to pay for the visit, our health care system is broken.

We see the evidence of the broken system and the staggering costs of health care in this country. The United States spends 16 percent of our GDP on health care. That is about twice what our major industrialized competitor nations spend. The annual cost of the system exceeds \$2 trillion, and it is expected soon to double. Family health emergencies have been the most common cause of personal bankruptcy, and businesses, large and small, struggle under the weight of ever-increasing health insurance costs. There is more health care than steel in Ford's cars and more health care than coffee beans in Starbucks coffee.

Yet for all that money, what do we get? We still leave 46 million Americans uninsured; 46 million wrenching stories of health care foregone, of personal misfortune, even lives lost. That doesn't even include the experiences of our Nation's underinsured or small business owners struggling to provide health insurance or the many Americans who receive poor quality health care.

President-elect Obama is committed to reforming this broken system, and he has taken swift action to engage the American people in a national conversation about what is wrong and what we can do to fix it. Last month, he and Secretary-designate Daschle asked people to hold meetings in their communities to discuss health care reform and to share their ideas.

In the end, there is no better way to understand the deep failures of our health care system and the very real pain, frustration, anxiety, and anger it causes than to talk to the people who have experienced it firsthand. Over the past few years—at community dinners that I have around our State, in my office, as I travel around—many Rhode Islanders have reached out to me to share their stories and to urge that we work urgently to repair this broken system. I wish to take a moment to share a few of those stories.