

not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of social justice and the character of our country.”

I’ve thought about that phrase quite a bit in recent days—the character of our country. One of the unique and wonderful things about America has always been our self-reliance, our rugged individualism, our fierce defense of freedom, and our healthy skepticism of government. And figuring out the appropriate size and role of government has always been a source of rigorous and sometimes angry debate.

For some of Ted Kennedy’s critics, his brand of liberalism represented an affront to American liberty. In their mind, his passion for universal health care was nothing more than a passion for big government.

But those of us who know Teddy and worked with him here—people of both parties—know that what drove him was something more. His friend, ORRIN HATCH, knows that. They worked together to provide children with health insurance. His friend JOHN MCCAIN knows that. They worked together on a Patient’s Bill of Rights. His friend CHUCK GRASSLEY knows that. They worked together to provide health care to children with disabilities.

On issues like these, Ted Kennedy’s passion was born not of some rigid ideology, but of his own experience. It was the experience of having two children stricken with cancer. He never forgot the sheer terror and helplessness that any parent feels when a child is badly sick; and he was able to imagine what it must be like for those without insurance; what it would be like to have to say to a wife or a child or an aging parent—there is something that could make you better, but I just can’t afford it.

That large-heartedness—that concern and regard for the plight of others—is not a partisan feeling. It is not a Republican or a Democratic feeling. It, too, is part of the American character. Our ability to stand in other people’s shoes. A recognition that we are all in this together; that when fortune turns against one of us, others are there to lend a helping hand. A belief that in this country, hard work and responsibility should be rewarded by some measure of security and fair play; and an acknowledgement that sometimes government has to step in to help deliver on that promise.

This has always been the history of our progress. In 1935, when over half of our seniors could not support themselves and millions had seen their savings wiped away, there were those who argued that Social Security would lead to socialism. But the men and women of Congress stood fast, and we are all the better for it. In 1965, when some argued that Medicare represented a government takeover of health care, members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, did not back down. They joined together so that all of us could enter our golden years with some basic peace of mind.

You see, our predecessors understood that government could not, and should not, solve every problem. They understood that there are instances when the gains in security from government action are not worth the added constraints on our freedom. But they also understood that the danger of too much government is matched by the perils of too little; that without the leavening hand of wise policy, markets can crash, monopolies can stifle competition, and the vulnerable can be exploited. And they knew that when any government measure, no matter how carefully crafted or beneficial, is subject to scorn; when any efforts to help people in need are attacked as un-American; when facts and reason are thrown overboard and only timidity passes for wisdom, and we can no longer even engage in a civil conversation with each other over the things that truly matter—that at that point we don’t merely lose our capacity to solve big challenges. We lose something essential about ourselves.

What was true then remains true today. I understand how difficult this health care debate has been. I know that many in this country are deeply skeptical that government is looking out for them. I understand that the politically safe move would be to kick the can further down the road—to defer reform one more year, or one more election, or one more term.

But that’s not what the moment calls for. That’s not what we came here to do. We did not come to fear the future. We came here to shape it. I still believe we can act even when it’s hard. I still believe we can replace acrimony with civility, and gridlock with progress. I still believe we can do great things, and that here and now we will meet history’s test.

Because that is who we are. That is our calling. That is our character. Thank you, God Bless You, and may God Bless the United States of America.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 9, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that it has passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S. J. Res. 9. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of France A. Córdova as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 310. An act to provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1043. An act to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest

System lands in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1287. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a partnership with the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission regarding the use of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center as a visitor center for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1345. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the provisions of law commonly referred to as the “Hatch Act”.

H.R. 1858. An act to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2004. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the “Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office”.

H.R. 2760. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the “Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building.”

The message further announced that pursuant to section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Directors of the National Urban Air Toxics Research Center: Mrs. Herminia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H., of Bellaire, Texas and Mr. John Walke of Washington, D.C.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 310. An act to provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 1043. An act to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1287. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a partnership with the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission regarding the use of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center as a visitor center for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1345. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the provisions of law commonly referred to as the “Hatch Act”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1858. An act to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2004. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2760. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Armed Services, and referred as indicated:

S. 1599. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to include in the Federal charter of the Reserve Officers Association leadership positions newly added in its constitution and bylaws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2747. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. military personnel and U.S. civilian contractors involved in the anti-narcotics campaign in Columbia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2748. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2009-0096—2009-0106); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2749. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Operation of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act 2008 Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2750. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the transfer of technical data, defense services, and hardware for the design, manufacture, and delivery of the QuetzSat-1 Commercial Communication Satellite for the United Kingdom in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2751. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services for the manufacture and overhaul of hydraulic steering systems for X300 transmissions of ground vehicles for the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2752. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs,

Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment with an original acquisition value of more than \$14,000,000 for New Zealand; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2753. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed permanent export license for the export of defense articles and technical data related to the sale of 394 Colt Infantry Automatic Rifles for use by the Mexican Navy in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2754. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the transfer of technical data, defense services, and hardware to support the Proton launch of the NSS-14 Commercial Communication Satellite from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2755. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the transfer of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to Thailand related to the sale of three S-92A helicopters to the Royal Thai Air Force in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2756. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the transfer of technical data, defense services, and hardware to Japan to support the manufacture of Chukar II and Chukar III Aerial Target Systems for the Ministry of Defense of Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2757. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of technical data, defense services, and defense articles for the sale of four C-27J Spartan Aircraft from Alenia Aeronautica S.p.A. to the Kingdom of Morocco in the amount of \$50,000,000; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2758. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles and defense services for the manufacture of Power Amplifier Modules and High Voltage Power Supplies for the AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder Radars, and the AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel Radar for end use by the U.S. Government in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2759. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the transfer of technical data, defense services, and defense articles related to the Laser Based Directional Infrared Countermeasures System for end-use by the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2760. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles and defense services for the manufacture of Tomahawk Cruise Missile Subassemblies for end-use by the U.S. Navy in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2761. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the transfer of technical data, defense services, and hardware to support the Proton launch of the ViaSat-1 Commercial Communication Satellite from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2762. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the transfer of technical data, defense services, and hardware related to the delivery and support of five Sentinel Radars and two Sentry Command and Control Systems for end-use by the Mexican Navy in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2763. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of technical data, defense services, and defense articles related to the sale of seven C-27J Spartan Aircraft from Alenia Aeronautica S.p.A. to the Government of Romania in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2764. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Officials: Definition of Immediate Family Members, As Amended" ((22 CFR Part 41)(Public Notice: 6676)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 7, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2765. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the confirmation of a nomination in the position of Director of the Peace Corps; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2766. A communication from the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, transmitting, an agenda for Parliamentary Briefings and Hearings at the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2767. A communication from the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, transmitting, a request for participation in a study on parliamentary oversight; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2768. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 005-09, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2769. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-