

their doctors. But none of these claims is true.

The respected head of the Mayo Clinic recently described the health care antics we have witnessed as “mud” and “scare tactics.”

A well-regarded Washington Post writer with a quarter century of experience, married to a Bush administration official, noted about the House health care bill: “The appalling amount of misinformation being peddled by its opponents.” She called it a “flood of sheer factual misstatements about the health-care bill” and noted of the House Republicans that “[t]he falsehood-peddling began at the top.

Her ultimate question was this:

Are the Republican arguments against the bill so weak that they have to resort to these misrepresentations and distortions?

Where does this lead? The ill-informed, the gullible, those already on the razor’s edge of anger about the very election of this President may well be tipped by all this poisonous propaganda into actions we would all regret—I hope we would all regret. When do anger and frustration fomented in this debate begin to spill over into dangerous or violent acts? When does some havoc occur, such that we all look back with sorrow and wish we had better leashed our dogs of rhetorical war? Where do we restore civility and reason to the health care debate before it gets too late?

I say history’s charge to the Senate is to rise above the poison of our recent public debate. This greatest deliberative body is intended to set an example for public argument, not get swept into its downward spiral. We may find agreement; we may not. At the end of the day, some of us may be happy and others of us not. Some may lose and some may win. But the Senate will go on.

After the health care debate has raged through this great Chamber,

other debates will follow, and ultimately what will matter more than the outcome of those debates is whether our proud American democracy has come through them with its head held high.

When debate and our democracy lose its footing in the facts, when things are said for public effect without regard to whether they are true, when the din of strife blots out the voice of reason, something of great and lasting value to America is sacrificed.

Democracy does not prosper on a diet of propaganda and fear. The current tone of much of our debate is, frankly, unworthy of us. Most in America agree something must be done to fix our health care system. If we can agree something must be done, it should not be difficult to debate our differences as to what must be done in a civil, thoughtful, and factual manner. Let the Senate be the place where we take a stand, rejecting the incivility and falsehood that has surrounded us on our public airwaves. Through history, that is what this Chamber, at its best, has always achieved and needs now to achieve again.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3590

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 3590 at 10 a.m. under the debate limitations previously ordered.

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

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

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:45 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:51 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 20, 2009, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

VICTOR H. ASHE, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2010, VICE JAMES K. GLASSMAN, RESIGNED.

WALTER ISAACSON, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2012, VICE STEVEN J. SIMMONS, TERM EXPIRED.

WALTER ISAACSON, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS, VICE JAMES K. GLASSMAN, RESIGNED.

MICHAEL LYNTON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2012, VICE MARK MCKINNON, TERM EXPIRED.

SUSAN MCCUE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2011, VICE JOAQUIN F. BLAYA, TERM EXPIRED.

MICHAEL P. MEEHAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2010, VICE D. JEFFREY HIRSCHBERG, TERM EXPIRED.

DENNIS MULHAUPT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2011, VICE BLANQUITA WALSH CULLUM, TERM EXPIRED.

DANA M. PERINO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2012, VICE EDWARD E. KAUFMAN, RESIGNED.

S. ENDERS WIMBUSH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2010, VICE NORMAN J. PATTIZ, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, Thursday, November 19, 2009:

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID F. HAMILTON, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.