

harm by the Senate's delay and failure to do so.

The Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court pointedly declared in his 1997 Year End Report: "Vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice that traditionally has been associated with the federal judiciary." We have had hearings canceled by both the Second Circuit and the Ninth Circuit due to judicial vacancies. Must we wait for the administration of justice to fail before the Senate will act on the other 45 judicial nominees pending before us? I hope not.

In his most recent report on the judiciary the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court observed: "Some current nominees have been waiting a considerable time for a Senate Judiciary Committee vote or a final floor vote. The Senate confirmed only 17 judges in 1996 and 36 in 1997, well under the 101 judges it confirmed in 1994." He went on to note: "The Senate is surely under no obligation to confirm any particular nominee, but after the necessary time for inquiry it should vote him up or vote him down."

I hope that the Judiciary Committee and the Senate will proceed to consider and confirm judicial nominees more promptly and without the months of delay that now accompany so many nominations. I hope the Committee will not delay in scheduling the additional hearings we need to hold to consider the fine men and women whom the President has nominated to fill these important positions.

Mr. President, Howard Matz, I am glad to see, was confirmed. He was nominated last October, reported by the committee on April 2.

I thank the majority leader for bringing this up and getting it concluded. Senator BOXER of California showed enormous perseverance and determination in moving this forward. I commend her and her choice. I note that he was confirmed by unanimous vote, 85-0.

Victoria Roberts' nomination has been on the calendar 1 month, pending 11 months. Senator LEVIN has been very strongly supportive of her, and I believe that also was a unanimous confirmation. I commend the Senators involved, and I commend the majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate returns to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

CHESTER TRENT LOTT III

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Romulus was the legendary first King of Rome. It was said that he went up to Heaven during a storm. Others have drawn the conclusion that it was during an eclipse of the Sun. In any case, it was a historic event.

When Joshua had his men march around the walls of Jericho, they blew their trumpets at a given signal and the walls came tumbling down. We are told in the Scriptures that it was a long day, a long day, a significant event, perhaps a scientific event, one about which there has been some debate.

I have been informed of a truly significant recent event. I wouldn't say that it is Earth shaking, but who knows? It could eventually be looked back upon as an earthshaking event.

Now, what is this all about? The Senator from Maryland, Mr. SARBANES, is watching and listening with great interest, and so are others. This event, I want to say in the RECORD and for all those who are watching through that electronic eye, this event was about the coming of Chester Trent Lott III, the first grandchild of our distinguished majority leader, and the baby came with the angels on last Saturday evening.

He weighed 7 pounds and 7 ounces—so, you see, those are mystic numbers, 7/7—7 pounds, 7 ounces. He was 19.5 inches in length. Now, these weights and measures are important. They were even important to the barons who forced King John on the meadow at Runnymede on June 15, 1215, to sign the great charter, the Magna Carta, which required that there be a system of weights and measures in the Kingdom. And our illustrious forebears who wrote the Constitution of the United States said that Congress would have the power to fix the standard of weights and measures.

So here to live by that system of weights and measures is a new man, a nova Homo sapiens named Chester Trent Lott III. That is a matter of great significance in the life of our leader.

I congratulate Senator LOTT on this most felicitous happening, this most felicitous occasion. Mr. President, there is nothing, may I say to the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, so wonderful as cradling in your arms—oh, many times I have done it—cradling in your arms a swaddled baby. It awakens in one such an amazing range of emotions. There is nothing like it. It is an experience sui generis—one of a kind. Upon the birth of one's own child, the tremendous joy and relief felt in meeting for the first time this tiny, new person is tempered by a measure of fear. You gaze down at this fragile baby and realize what an awesome responsibility you have assumed. Your baby is small, maybe 7 pounds 7 ounces—and there are smaller babies. They are all small and so fragile, so helpless, and so dependent upon

you for their survival. His skin is as soft as a butterfly's wing, his fingernails as translucent as scraps of rice paper; yet those minute, perfect little fingers grasp yours with such fierce determination! I can feel those little fingers closing around my fingers with such fierce determination—although that experience of having my own daughters do that is now 60 years gone. But the memory is fresh in my mind.

But to become a grandfather—now, that is a higher plateau. Mr. Leader, you are walking a higher plateau of immortality. It is not your first taste of mortality—that came with your son or daughter—but now a more inspiring, promising taste of immortality. To become a grandfather is a completely different experience. There is none of that fear, but all of the joy. That joy is heightened by a deep conviction—a deep conviction that "this is in my image" and in its grandmother's image, too. But it has my genes, it has my chromosomes, it is part of me. I can see it going on into the future and carrying on through life. ROBERT BYRD will never die, I would say. I can say that in more ways than one, but in this situation, my grandchild is part of me.

Tennyson said, "I am a part of all that I have met." But this was known before Tennyson. A grandfather, when he looks upon that child, can say with joy: "This is a part of me; it will never, never die."

That joy is heightened by a deep connection that you feel to the long continuum of countless generations, stretching all the way back from Adam and Eve to you and through you to your child, and now to your child's child. And you can feel the pull of the ancient echoes from the dim and distant past as your arms adjust to the weight of this little, new life in your arms. And you can see into the hazy unknown and murky distant future of continuing, endless generations, when this child of your child will have children who will carry a part of you and a part of everyone in this chain before you into the next century, and beyond.

There is a sense of connectedness and timelessness that allows you to understand your place in the long, slow march of generations that is as difficult to express as it is wonderful to experience.

That political treatise, *The Policraticus*, was written by John of Salisbury in the early part of the 12th century. It told of Prothaonius, who said it was glory enough for him that he had lived a life, of which his "grandson need not be ashamed." It was glory enough for him that he had lived a life of which his grandson need not be ashamed. We grandfathers should try to emulate Prothaonius.

Well, I offer my sincere congratulations to Senator LOTT and best wishes to his new grandson; and, of course, I congratulate Mrs. Lott, about her new grandson, and my wife joins me. I hope the duties of the "grandfather's office" will not prevent the Senator from Mississippi from spending many happy

hours with the newest member of the "House of Lott."

We read about the House of David. This is the "House of Lott." And, as the days and months go by, when this grandfather holds his new grandson, I hope that Senator LOTT will appreciate the emotion that is expressed by these few lines of verse, which I did not write, but which I dedicate to Chester Trent Lott III.

First, in thy grandfather's arms, a newborn child
thou didst weep, while those around thee smiled;
so live, that in thy lasting sleep
thou mayst smile while those around thee weep.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am truly honored and awed by the beautiful, flowing, wonderful remarks of the distinguished Senator from West Virginia. I can assure him that the "House of Lott" will forever treasure his remarks here today.

I actually was not sure that the Senator was going to do this today. But by accident, coincidence, I had suggested to my wife earlier this morning about 10:30 that she might want to look in on the Senate's activities this morning. I hope that she and my son and daughter-in-law and young grandson have been able to watch this magnificent presentation.

I could never match, nor would I even attempt to respond in kind to the magnificent statement that has just been given by the Senator from West Virginia.

The American people have seen once again here this morning what an important and incomparable role that the Senator from West Virginia plays in this body. He is our historian. He is our conscience. He is the one that guarantees that we honor this institution, respect each other, that we are honest and fair with each other, that we think about our country, and that we have moments of great oratory and moments where we reach for that power star in this country and in the world. But only Senator BYRD would take the floor and take the time to talk about the importance of family, fatherhood, grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

He brings us back to Earth. He makes us appreciate, once again, how really humbled we should be to be here, and that we should always keep our priorities in order.

History gives us something we can look back toward as we move in the future—great events, great moments, crowning of kings, and war treaties. But in most lives nothing is more important than the birth of your children, your daughter, and your son, and your grandson.

So I thank him for what he had to say here today, not just for my grandson and me, but what it says about this institution, what it says about our relationship, and what it says about America and the importance of family.

I am very proud. I am a very proud grandfather. I have a wonderful wife and two wonderful children, and now our grandchild.

You are right. I have held him in my arms already. I was reduced to a puddle of tears and excitement about this occasion. It really is one of the magic moments in your life.

But the most wonderful experience I had over the past week was when I took my son to lunch last Sunday to give him a break because it had been a long time through the delivery. And his wife did wonderfully well. And I was talking to him. I said, "Now, son, don't feel like you have to pass the family name on. You know, call him whatever you want." He said, "Dad, I want to name my son after my best friend."

I couldn't say anything more, because I was so proud of him and what he had to say.

So this is a great event. I am really appreciative of what you had to say, and I am appreciative of being able to serve in this great body.

Thank you.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to add my hearty congratulations to our distinguished leader.

And how much I enjoyed listening to Senator BYRD. I had the privilege of having a long conversation with your granddaughter the other day. She has a certain interest in my State. I am not even going to let you know what we were talking about.

Someday, Senator LOTT, we will put in the RECORD the great story about Senator MURKOWSKI and his grandchildren. That is a wonderful story. It should be in the RECORD.

But these are moments in the life of the Senate—to look at these two, the greatest of leaders, exchange heartfelt thoughts. It enriches us all. And I thank you.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I want to join with all my other colleagues in congratulating the majority leader, Senator LOTT, on the birth of his grandson, and also to express my very deep appreciation to Senator BYRD for his wonderful statement just a few minutes ago on the floor of the Senate.

There is no one who brings us back to our sense of the Senate as an institution any more than Senator BYRD. And it is always a delight to have the opportunity to hear him.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MEMORIAL

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I join with my distinguished colleague from Maryland, Mr. SARBANES, and all Senators last night for the unanimous-consent passage of an important piece of legislation authorizing the placement of a Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in area I of the capital of the greatest

country in the world, right here in Washington, DC.

Mr. President, I rise to applaud the passage of this important legislation authorizing the placement of a Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in Area I of the Capital.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Senator SARBANES and Congresswoman MORELLA for the leadership they have both shown over the years we have worked together on legislation authorizing the establishment of a Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial.

In 1996, Congress passed and the President signed legislation, also sponsored by Senator SARBANES and myself, authorizing the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the oldest predominately African-American fraternity in the United States, to establish without cost to the Federal Government a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Chairman, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity wishes to honor Dr. King with a memorial in the Nation's Capital as tangible recognition of his remarkable role in the history of our nation. Dr. King's message of nonviolence and freedom for all should be passed from generation to generation. A memorial in his name will be effective in helping us reach this important goal.

The legislation establishes the memorial in Area I, which consists of the Mall and environs. As you know, the Department of Interior, after consult with the National Capital Memorial Commission, transmitted its formal recommendation that the memorial be located in Area I in a letter to the President of the Senate dated January 29, 1998.

Requirements contained in the Commemorative Works Act stipulate that the Department of Interior's recommendation regarding location of a memorial in Area I shall be disapproved if not enacted into law within 150 days of its transmittal to Congress. Therefore it was critical that the Senate consider and pass this legislation prior to that deadline.

I would like to add two personal reminiscences that I have about Dr. King. By coincidence largely, I was within the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial when he delivered his historic address. I do recall vividly the long line of marchers coming to and from that historic event.

Somewhat later in life, I was privileged to serve on the governing board of the Washington Cathedral. The subject came up as to whether or not he would be invited to preach in the Washington Cathedral. And I remember very well the board meeting. I was present and with others cast my vote such that he could come to that magnificent edifice which is on the highest promontory of the Nation's Capital to deliver his last and most historic sermon.