

that explodes the national debt, a \$1 trillion stimulus that failed to hold unemployment down to the levels we were told it would, a health spending bill that is already leading to higher costs, and a raft of other bills that expand Washington's role in people's lives.

With just 3 days left in the Democrat's 2-year experiment in expanded government, they want to make a good last impression with a bill they know has no chance of passing and which they have no interest in passing. So this is about as pure a political exercise as you can get. In my view, it is an insult to the millions of Americans who want us to focus on jobs.

Democrats made a very clear choice. They chose to ignore the concerns of the American people and to press ahead with their own agenda over the past year and a half. In the last 3 days of the session, they have decided they can at least pretend to be concerned. This is nothing short of patronizing. But in some ways it is the perfect way to end a session in which the American people have taken a backseat to the Democrats' big government agenda.

As for the specifics of this bill, even if this were a serious exercise, it is a bad idea. Even the Democratic chairman of the Finance Committee said this bill could hurt American competitiveness. As a number of my colleagues pointed out yesterday, the way to get U.S. businesses to produce more here isn't to tax them even further, it is to stop punishing them with our high corporate tax rate. If American businesses are going to compete with foreign corporations, we should have competitive tax rates. It is that simple.

Moreover, the companies this bill targets, by and large, are not opening overseas subsidiaries to make products for Americans. They are moving overseas to serve foreign markets in addition to the markets they already have in place, and that creates jobs right here in the United States. When these additional markets overseas are opened, it creates jobs right here in the United States.

This bill is not a serious attempt to address a problem. It is a purely political exercise aimed at making a good impression. Unfortunately for Democrats, the impression they have made over the past year and a half has stuck—and for good reason.

REMEMBERING SENATOR TED STEVENS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, at 1 o'clock this afternoon our dear friend, Ted Stevens, will be laid to rest, with honors, across the river at Arlington National Cemetery. So the Senate will be thinking of Ted Stevens today.

Ted was a legend in his own lifetime and the American people would have remembered him even if he had not gone on to serve as the longest serving Republican in Senate history. A recipient of the Air Medal and the Distin-

guished Flying Cross for his service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, Ted was, during his earliest days, an adventurer, a fighter, and a patriot. He lived an incredibly full life, most of it in service to his Nation and more specifically to his State.

His colleagues in the Senate admired and even sometimes feared him, but Alaskans loved him without any qualification. To them he was just "Uncle Ted," a title I am sure will live on.

I have been to Alaska a number of times over the years at Ted's invitation and one of the things that becomes clear to anyone who goes up there, as I said at Ted's funeral last month, is that Alaska ironically is a pretty small place—in the sense that everybody seems to know each other, and everybody knew Ted Stevens. From the airport in Anchorage to the remotest villages, Ted is omnipresent up there. That is saying something in a State that is bigger than California, Texas, and Montana combined.

The reason is simple: In Ted's view, if it wasn't good for Alaska, it wasn't good. He devoted his entire adult life to a simple mission, to work tirelessly and unapologetically to transform Alaska into a modern State. He was faithful to that mission to the very end. It is hard to imagine that any one man ever meant more to any one State than Ted Stevens.

One of the stories I like about Ted is the one about his former chief of staff and his first trip to Alaska with Ted. When he showed up at Ted's house to pick him up at 6 o'clock in the morning, Ted had already gone through the briefing book he had been given the night before, read all the daily papers, and had already been on the phone to Washington for a couple hours. By the end of the trip, he said he needed a vacation after doing, for 2 weeks, what Ted had been doing for 39 years.

But Ted would always say he worked so hard because there was always so much work to do. Part of that, of course, was making sure that all of us knew about what Alaska and Alaskans needed. So everybody got invited up there—not necessarily because he liked you but because he wanted us to appreciate the unique challenges Alaskans faced day in and day out, and turning down an invitation from Ted Stevens was not recommended.

Ted poured himself into Alaska and he poured himself into the Senate. He mentored countless young men and women who worked for him over the years. He mentored countless new Members from both parties.

It was an honor to have known him, and it was a privilege to have served alongside him in the Senate for so long.

We have missed him the past 2 years, and we honor him again today.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 11:10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

SENATOR TED STEVENS

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I have sought recognition to join in paying tribute to Senator Ted Stevens, who was in this Chamber from 1967 until early 2009, and his presence is still felt, so pervasive was his impact on this body.

My first contact with Senator Stevens was shortly after my election, when I was in the process of selecting my committee assignments. I had said during the campaign that I would seek the Agriculture Committee, but when the first round came up and there was a spot left on Appropriations, I decided that was the best committee to select for the interests of my State.

I did not get the Ag Committee. Appropriations has a subcommittee, Ag Appropriations, and it was filled. But Ted Stevens generously opened the spot, taking another subcommittee assignment so I could maintain, in part, my statement that I would seek influence on the agricultural issues.

Ted Stevens had a reputation for being tough and demanding. He had a famous Hulk tie which I proudly have in my closet and wear on occasions when it is appropriate. But behind that tough exterior, there was a heart of gold and a very emotional man. He said that he did not lose his temper, he would "use" his temper, that he did not lose his temper, he always knew where it was.

I recall one session of the Senate in the middle of the night. During Howard Baker's term as majority leader, he would sometimes have all-night sessions. It is amazing how much you can get done and how short the debate is at 3 a.m. An issue had arisen as to residency. I believe it was Bill Proxmire who had made some statements about living in Washington, DC. That infuriated Ted Stevens, and he rose, and in a loud, bombastic, explosive voice, he said he did not live in Washington, he lived in Alaska, and because of his affection for Alaska, he could not consider living in Washington. This was part-time duty to handle a specific job.

In 1984 after the elections, Senator Baker retired, and the Senate leadership was up. At that time, we had the most hotly contested battle for leadership during my tenure here and perhaps of all time. There were five top-notch candidates: Senator Stevens, Senator Dole, Senator McClure, Senator Domenici, and Senator LUGAR. It finally boiled down to Bob Dole and Ted Stevens, and Bob Dole won, 28 to 25. When the vote was taken, I happened to be sitting with Senator Dole.