

we opted for public transportation instead of a personal driver, Bob simply said: "Because the Metro is more convenient." This anecdote is indicative of Bob's character. He resisted the trappings of public office and truly saw himself as a servant of the people.

Perhaps more importantly, he never let the office of Senator define him. Maybe that is because he came to Congress with such a rich and varied background. Prior to his work here, Bob had already served as a Mormon military chaplain, a congressional liaison with the Nixon administration, a public relations director for billionaire Howard Hughes, and as the chief executive officer of FranklinCovey. For Bob, being a Senator was never something that was central to his personal identity; it was merely a job title that allowed him to serve others in a greater capacity.

Allow me to share a simple story that illustrates Bob's humility and willingness to serve. Many years ago, Bob befriended a blind couple in his local Mormon congregation. Every single Sunday, Bob would pay the couple a personal visit, drive them to church, and stay by their side for the duration of meetings—always ready and always eager to help. For Bob, faithfully serving this elderly couple was just as important as fulfilling his duties in the Senate. That, Mr. President, is heartfelt humility and love unfeigned.

I often wondered what it was that enabled Bob to serve so selflessly. I believe the answer is simple: It was his faith in and love for Jesus Christ, whom he looked to as a model of servant leadership. Bob believed in the Christian teaching that when you are in the service of your fellow men and women, you are only in the service of your God. This belief animated his service until the very end.

For as long as Bob was physically able, he was an active volunteer in his church congregation. In fact, just 3 weeks ago he hosted a doctrinal discussion with dozens of Latter-day Saints seeking to build their faith. In this meeting, Bob bore testimony of Jesus Christ and his perfect example of love and sacrifice. The next day, Bob suffered a stroke and was admitted to the hospital for the last time.

Both in public office and in private life, Bob Bennett was a model of selfless service. We were blessed by his work in the Senate and will continue to benefit from his example of humble leadership. I pray that we might always remember Bob's humility and kindness and seek to emulate these qualities ourselves as we work together to overcome the challenges facing our country.

Mr. President, having said all of that, Bob was very fortunate to have Joyce as his companion. She is a terrific human being, very talented—a flute instructor, a tremendous flutist. He has wonderful children, each one of whom has made contributions in our society that are exemplary. His friends will always remember Bob as somebody who

really accomplished a lot in his life as well as the lives of many thousands of people around him.

I personally am deeply grateful for the kindness he showed to me, the friendship we had together, and the privilege I had of serving with him. I will miss Bob very much, and I think all of us who knew him well will miss him. He was truly a great example.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments about Senator Bennett; and then I will yield the floor to Senator NELSON, who has another schedule; and then, for the information of Senators and staff, I will make some comments on how we are going to proceed on the Energy and Water bill, which I hope we can wrap up pretty quickly, but I will wait until Senator NELSON finishes.

Mr. President, I am glad I had a chance to hear the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, as well as Senator REID and Senator HATCH, all of whom were great friends of Bob Bennett, as was I.

Bob Bennett came to Washington with his father Wallace Bennett, who was a U.S. Senator. He was in the Senate when I first came here as a Senate aide. I first met Bob nearly 50 years ago, when we, in effect, both worked for Bryce Harlow, who was President Nixon's Chief of Congressional Relations. Mr. Harlow, who is revered in Washington still, would have Saturday morning meetings with all of those of us who had the job of being congressional liaisons with Members of Congress. Bob Bennett was in the Transportation Department, and I was Mr. Harlow's assistant and telephone answerer in the White House at the time. We got to know each other then. We have known each other ever since. He and his wife Joyce visited with us in our home in Tennessee and we traveled with them and worked together on a variety of issues. They became very special friends.

He was chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, to which Senator HATCH referred, which had so much to do with his home State of Utah. He handled that with great diligence and great effectiveness for a number of years. That is the bill we are working on today in the Senate.

I will be at his service tomorrow, as will other Senators. I simply wanted to add my voice to those of the majority leader, the Democratic leader, and his colleague Senator HATCH in saying we all greatly admired Bob. He served our Nation brilliantly and well and eloquently.

I heard his farewell address. It was one of the best I have ever heard. I remember one of the things he said: The great value as a Senator is that you not only have a say, you have a vote.

Bob Bennett had a lot to say, he cast a lot of votes, and a lot of us listened very carefully to what he had to say

and greatly respected his votes. We have lost a great friend, and Utah and our country lost a great public servant.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I will talk about the Zika virus, but I want to first add a comment about Senator Bob Bennett.

A gentleman's gentleman, a legislator's legislator, a Senator who would reach across the aisle in order to get the workable consensus in order to get something done.

Doesn't that sound like the type of person we need in the Congress today in order to confront the issues we are facing? I was saddened to hear the news he had passed on.

ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to give an update. The Zika virus is raging. It is certainly raging in Puerto Rico. It is expanding greatly in this country, and the State with the most infected cases is my State of Florida.

I have been on this floor many times asking for the President's request of \$1.9 billion to attack the Zika virus. About \$800 million of that is, No. 1, to replace the Ebola emergency fund, which they have raided since the Congress has not given them the funding in order to try to get at the problem to begin with, which is somewhere around \$500 million to \$550 million. They need another \$225 million to increase Medicaid in Puerto Rico, where it is now estimated that by the end of the year, 25 percent of the population of Puerto Rico—25 percent—will be infected because that is where this mosquito—called the aegypti mosquito—that transmits the virus is raging, but beware, especially as we are going into the warm summer months, this aegypti mosquito is all over the Southern United States. Anyplace that is hot, humid, and where there is rain—because rainwater will not all dissipate. It may be in a bottle cap. It may be in a dishpan. It may be in a birdbath. Where there is stagnant water, that mosquito will lay its larva, and that is the breeding ground to hatch the aegypti.

About 1½ weeks ago, when we were here before the recess, there were approximately 1,000 cases reported in the United States, which included 570 in Puerto Rico and 94 in Florida. Now, just a little over a week later, it is already up to 1,133 cases across the country—up to 629 in Puerto Rico and 107 in my State. Just today, two more cases were reported by the Department of Health in the State of Florida.

The bottom line is, the virus is spreading, and it is spreading quickly. Not only is it spreading, but the CDC confirmed the first Zika-related death of a 70-year-old man who died of complications in Puerto Rico.

Over the break, I met with a group of Puerto Rican leaders in Florida. Basically, Puerto Rico does not have the

resources it needs to provide protection from the virus.

I was just talking to Senator HATCH, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, about getting the financial crisis addressed in Puerto Rico. We can see how that is spilling over into not being able to attack the Zika crisis where it is raging out of control because of the transmission in Puerto Rico by these mosquitos. Out of the 3.5 million population of Puerto Ricans on the island, it is estimated by the CDC that 800,000 of them could be infected by the end of this year.

So that U.S. territory—remember, they are American citizens. These are fellow Americans who are in trouble—is struggling under the weight of crippling debt in the financial crisis, and we haven't helped them yet. They have a Medicaid Program that is capped and it is running out of cash. The physician shortage is getting worse. What is happening is that because of the financial problems, the professionals—the doctors and lawyers and nurses, especially those in health care—because they cannot get compensated, they are leaving the island and going to the mainland. As a matter of fact, it is estimated that something between 85,000 and 100,000 may be leaving the island this year, coming to the mainland United States. The benefit is that a lot of those professionals are coming to Florida, but look at the gaping hole in health care that is leaving for the island.

It seems to me that as Senators, it is our duty to protect our fellow Americans and curb the spread of this virus now. So I have introduced what the administration requested. I have had Senators say we have not given a plan for the \$1.9 billion. I have given the plan over and over until this Senator is blue in the face. There is a specific breakout that I have entered into the RECORD several times, the last of which was when we were last in session 1½ weeks ago. The bill has 35 cosponsors, but unfortunately there is not one Republican Senator who is a cosponsor. It doesn't make sense. The spread of the Zika virus is not a partisan issue, and yet it seems to have been characterized that way.

I urge our colleagues to come together on this for the good of the American people. For their health and safety, let's approve this \$1.9 billion emergency request. This is the same kind of emergency funding request that would be in the aftermath of an earthquake, a hurricane, or some other natural disaster. It has now affected the American people. It is an awful virus, and we need to get at it and stop it before it is too late.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, for the information of Senators and staff

members, I would like to make a few comments about the Energy and Water appropriations bill that we will be moving to at 4 this afternoon. Senator FEINSTEIN is in an intelligence briefing and will be here about 4 as we will. We will have more to say at that time, but here is my view of where we are: At 5:30 today, the Senate, for the third time, will vote on whether it is time to cut off debate and finish the bill. The first two votes failed, and they failed for one reason. They failed because of differences of opinion about the amendment by the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. COTTON, which said that in the year 2017, the United States could not use tax dollars to buy heavy water from Iran as we are doing in 2016. So we will vote for the third time today on whether to cut off debate and finish the bill.

Here is what I would suggest our goal should be. This is just my opinion, but I have talked with the majority leader, the Democratic, and I have talked with Senator FEINSTEIN and a number of other Senators. No. 1, we should dispose of the Cotton amendment the way we normally dispose of issues about which we disagree. We should vote on them. That is what we do in the Senate—we vote. If you are in the Grand Ole Opry, you sing.

So we have a difference of opinion about the Cotton amendment. Let's vote on it. It is relevant to the bill. It is properly filed. It is germane. Senator COTTON has been very flexible. He has offered to decide it in many different ways. He has offered to modify his amendment. He has offered to allow it to be considered separately. He has offered for us to vote at a 60-vote level, and then he would withdraw it if he should lose. He has offered to vote it at 60 votes on cloture on his amendment.

So he has offered us an opportunity to vote on his amendment in many different ways. He just wants a vote. In my view, a Senator who has a relevant and germane amendment is entitled to a vote, and I am supporting his right to a vote. Then, once we vote on the amendment and dispose of it, we should finish the bill.

So I am optimistic. I see no reason why today or tomorrow—certainly no later than Wednesday—we cannot vote on and dispose of the Cotton amendment and vote on and finish the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

So I say to Senators and staff members, if I were planning my week, I would plan on there being a vote on the Cotton amendment. Now, they may ask how I know that. Well, I know this: that any majority leader has the right to file cloture on an amendment like the Cotton amendment, and by Wednesday we will vote on it at 60 votes. My own view is, since we are basically finished with the bill, except for the Cotton amendment, why would we not agree to wrap up things and do it tomorrow or even today? We could finish the bill today, with a vote on the Cotton amendment at 60 votes, with a

vote on cloture, and a vote on final passage.

As much as I defend the right of the Senator from Arkansas to have a vote, I am going to oppose his amendment on the merits, which I will describe in just a minute, but it is time to bring this bill to a conclusion. I think most Senators agree with that, and that is what we need to do.

Let me discuss for a moment, remind Senators and those listening, why this bill is so important. As the majority leader says, it covers a lot of essential services in this country. For example, every time there is a flood in the Midwest, 15 or 20 Senators show up wanting more money for flood control. Our inland waterways are in need of reconstruction. The harbors on the west coast and in Charleston, Mobile, and many other places need deepening. We need to stay No. 1 in supercomputing in the world. About half of this legislation has to do with our nuclear weapons program—modernizing it and keeping us safe. All 17 of our National Laboratories are in the Office of Science under this legislation. Despite staying within strict budget limits, we have agreed to the highest level of appropriations for our Office of Science, out of which comes so much of our economic growth, of any appropriations bill in history.

In addition to that, we have gone through a very careful process. About 80 different Members of the Senate have come to Senator FEINSTEIN and me with policy changes that they would like to see in the bill that are in the bill. Eighty means about half Republicans and half Democrats. I know that it is important to them because I have already heard reports of many Senators being home last weekend taking credit for all of these provisions they have gotten in the bill, which we haven't passed yet.

I don't blame them for that. There are a lot of provisions in this bill that are important to the country and important to my State of Tennessee. I am reminding Senators that this is an important bill in which they have had a lot of say. In addition, on the floor, we have already processed 17 different amendments—about as many Democratic amendments as Republican amendments. We did all of that in a matter of 3 or 4 days before we reached an impasse on the Cotton amendment.

We are basically done with step one of our most basic constitutional work, which is oversight and appropriations of about \$1 trillion in spending. This is the first of 12 bills. This Energy and Water appropriations bill has not gone across the floor in regular order since 2009. It is time we do that. We are very close to doing that.

Let me say a word about the amendment by the Senator from Arkansas. As I said, I have, for the last week, defended his right to have a vote, and he will have a vote. Make no mistake about it, he will have a vote, but I intend to oppose it on the merits for