



## EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

### **Interviewer's Briefing Materials** **Thomas Daschle Interview, 04/29/2009**

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#### **Miller Center Documents<sup>1</sup>**

- Thomas Daschle Timeline.
- Thomas Daschle Fact Sheet.

#### **Secondary Source Materials**

- Thomas Daschle bio, <http://bioguide.congress.gov>.
- Adam Clymer, *Edward M. Kennedy: A Biography* (New York: William Morrow and Co., 1999) pp. 547, 565-567, 574-575, 579-582, 597-599, 601-602.
- Tom Daschle, *Like No Other Time: The 107<sup>th</sup> Congress and the Two Years that Changed America Forever* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2003) pp. 97-98.
- Tom Daschle, *Critical: What we can do about the Health-Care Crisis* (St. Martin's Press, 2008) pp. 73-103.

#### **Oral History Interviews**

- Edward M. Kennedy interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/14/2006, 02/12/2007, 12/09/2007, 03/28/2008.
- David Sutphen interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 03/29/2007.
- Esther Olavarria interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 08/28/2006.
- David Nexon interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/12/2006.
- David Broder interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/01/2006.
- Nick Littlefield interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 02/14/2009, 05/03/2008, 05/04/2008, 06/30/2008, 07/01/2008.

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<sup>1</sup> These are original documents created by Miller Center researchers for the Edward M. Kennedy Oral History Project. Please acknowledge credit for any use of these materials.

- Trent Lott interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 07/22/2008.
- Martin Nolan interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 09/14/2006.
- James Sasser interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 05/25/2006.
- Spencer Clayton interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 03/28/2008.
- William vanden Heuvel interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/06/2006.
- Sharon Waxman interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/16/2008.

#### **Other**

- “Call to EMK from President Clinton,” 12/16/1998.
- “Senator Kennedy-Dictation on Meeting at White House with Clinton,” 12/21/1998.
- “EMK Notes-Democratic Caucus Briefing,” 01/06/1999.
- “EMK Notes,” 01/25/1999.

## THOMAS DASCHLE TIMELINE

*Prepared by Bryan Craig*

*Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/20/2009*

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### 1978

*November* Tom Daschle is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat from South Dakota where he serves until 1987.

### 1986

*November* Daschle is elected to the U.S. Senate as a Democrat from South Dakota. He becomes a protégé of Senator George Mitchell (D-ME). (*Biography Resource Center*)

### 1987

*January* Daschle is placed on the Finance Committee where he serves until 1995, then returns to serve from 2001-2005.

### 1991

As co-chair of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, Daschle visits Democratic Senators to set a policy agenda for the next congress. Health care reform is on top of the Senators' lists. (Tom Daschle, *Critical: What We Can Do about the Health-Care Crisis*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 2008, pp. 73-74)

### 1992

*April* On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Daschle introduces his bill the American Health Security Act of 1992 (S 2513) to achieve universal access to healthcare. The bill includes "an employer mandate, purchasing pools, and a regulatory infrastructure modeled after the Federal Reserve." (Daschle, pp. 76) It is sent to the Finance Committee, but it stalls in committee.

*November* Clinton is elected president, as the Democrats win the House, Senate, and White House.

### 1993

Mitchell holds meetings for Senators interested in healthcare. Gradually the group is reduced to Mitchell, EMK, and Daschle.

*January*

Clinton appoints Hillary Rodham Clinton to head the Health Care Reform Task Force to overhaul the nation's health care system. EMK and Daschle go on to help develop the Clinton health care bill. (*1994 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., pp. 321, 338-339)

*November* On the 20<sup>th</sup>, the last day of the congressional session, Clinton's universal health care bill (HR 3600, S 1757) is introduced in Congress. EMK and Daschle are among the bill's co-sponsors. The Senate Finance and Labor Committees move ahead to develop their own health care reforms. (*1994 CQ Almanac*, pp. 321-323)

## **1994**

*May* EMK's Labor Committee votes 11-6 to approve a health care bill modeled on Clinton's plan, with a three-year phase-in of universal coverage.

*July* On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Senate Finance Committee approves its own version of health care reform (S 2351) by a 12-8 vote. The panel abandons the Clinton approach of universal coverage and employer mandates, and sets the goal of 95% coverage with subsidies (funded by Medicare cuts) for low-income people to buy insurance. It provides two coverage plans: a comprehensive plan and a plan covering major illness, with people paying for other expenses. (*1994 CQ Almanac*, pp. 338-342)

*Summer/Fall* With no consensus emerging behind any single health care reform bill, Mitchell proposes his own bill which would delay employer mandates and drop price controls, but provide coverage for the unemployed. Despite misgivings, EMK supports the bill saying it is "designed to achieve" universal coverage. A bipartisan group of Senators under the leadership of John Chaffee, known as the Mainstream Group, emerges to oppose the Mitchell plan and propose their own compromise bill. With the Senate Finance Committee having rejected the Clinton plan, Clinton announces he would now be willing to accept 95% coverage. EMK works with Mitchell and Chaffee on a package based on the Mainstream Coalition bill in the fall. By September, Senators Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), EMK, and Daschle pressure Mitchell to force a cloture vote on a last minute compromise health care bill, but Mitchell does not have enough votes to break a filibuster and abandons health care reform for the year. (Adam Clymer. *Edward Kennedy: A Biography*, New York: William Morrow & Company, 1999, pp. 547; *1994 CQ Almanac*, pp. 355)

*November* The GOP wins control of both the House and Senate in the "Republican Revolution." EMK loses his chairmanship of the Labor Committee.

*December* On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Daschle wins the election for Senate Minority Leader by one vote. EMK votes for Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT). (Clymer, pp. 565; *1994 CQ Almanac*, pp. 17)

**1995** In an effort to cut government spending, the Newt Gingrich-led Congress withdraws funding for the congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). Senator Ernest Hollings (D-SC) had attempted to restore full funding for the OTA in July and was supported by EMK, Daschle, Robert Byrd (D-WV), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Ted Stevens (D-AK), the OTA board members, and Representative Charles Grassley (R-IA). However, they are unsuccessful and the

agency is effectively shut down on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The OTA had long been viewed as a Democrat-controlled agency. (Ellis Mottur, "Technology Assessment in the War on Terrorism and Homeland Security: The Role of the OTA," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; *Washington Monthly*, 01/01/2001; 1995 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 11-61 to 11-65)

- Jan.-March*     EMK defends his proposal to raise the minimum wage before Democratic leaders on the Hill. EMK lobbies Daschle to support the legislation. Daschle agrees to support the increase provided EMK gets more conservative Democrats on board. EMK brokers a deal after he drops his original proposal to increase the minimum wage \$1.50 over three years, with the increase indexed to inflation, and backs an increase of 90 cents over two years without indexing. (Clymer, pp. 565-566; Clymer interview with Littlefield, 08/06/1996, pp. 1-4)
- Feb.-March*     Senate Democrats hold a Senate Policy Committee meeting where Daschle's aid Ron Klain discusses Democratic responses to the Republican's first 100 days. EMK staffers Nick Littlefield and Clayton Spencer also meet with Klain to discuss cuts in education funding. EMK convinces Daschle that stopping these cuts would send a strong message, and they build Democratic support for an amendment to restore \$1.3 billion into child care, Head Start, and other programs. Daschle becomes a go between for Dole and EMK as they work out a compromise to restore funding. In the end, Dole agrees to restore \$800 million of spending. (Clymer, pp. 566-567; Clymer interview with Littlefield, 08/06/1996, pp. 11)
- Spring*           Littlefield meets with Klain to discuss strategies for fighting Republican Medicare cuts.
- April*             EMK and Daschle fight to close a GOP-backed loophole which allows wealthy individuals who give up their U.S. citizenship to avoid paying taxes. A sense of the Senate resolution is passed and Republicans promise to look at the issue later in the year. (1995 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 2-76)
- July-Oct.*         Daschle and EMK hold a joint press conference in July to discuss Medicare cuts. Daschle is reportedly concerned that moderate Democrats are calling for cuts, that the Clinton administration wants welfare reform, and that the Republicans are convincing the press that Medicare is broken. By September, Daschle calls a meeting with EMK and Rockefeller. EMK calls for the Democrats to take a strong stand against any cuts, but later learns that Daschle supports a balanced budget.
- November*        Daschle and EMK continue to fight the Republican budget. Hilley remains a key liaison between EMK, Daschle, and Clinton. Daschle reports to EMK that Clinton is now more strongly opposed to Republican cuts in the budget. EMK meets with Daschle on the plane ride back from Yitzak Rabin's funeral with news that Dole is now ready to compromise, while Hilley reports Democrats are winning this issue in the polls. By the mid-November, the government shuts

down as Daschle and Clinton work out a compromise. Hilley pressures Littlefield to give in half-way to the Republicans but EMK wants to hold the line. Negotiations continue into 1996.

*December* Daschle and EMK vote against the welfare overhaul bill (HR 4). Senate Democrats argue there is not enough money for job training and social services for the poor. In October, EMK and Daschle are successful in removing some of the GOP provisions from an earlier version of the bill, but Clinton still later vetoes the bill. (1995 CQ Almanac, pp. 7-51 to 7-52, S-88, S-101)

## 1996

*January* In his State of the Union address, Clinton announces support for the EMK-Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) health insurance portability bill. According to Nick Littlefield, EMK worries the Clintons will settle for any bill. Daschle asks Hillary Clinton to let EMK manage the bill. (1996 CQ Almanac, p. 6-28; Clymer interview with Littlefield, 01/17/1999, pp. 2)

*March* As the presidential election approaches, Democrats highlight minimum wage. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Senators John Kerry (D-MA), Daschle, and EMK agree they should attempt to get a minimum wage increase to the Senate floor by Easter recess. (Clymer, pp. 573; 1996 CQ Almanac, pp. 7-3 to 7-4)

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Daschle files a cloture petition for a vote on EMK's minimum wage amendment before Dole is able to pull the bill from the floor. All 47 Democrats and eight Republicans vote for the wage increase. (Clymer, pp. 574; 1996 CQ Almanac, pp. 7-4, 21-S)

*April* The Senate approves (100-0) its version of the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill (S 1028). EMK and Kassebaum initially work out an agreement with Dole not to offer any amendments to the bill. Yet Dole offers a broad amendment that includes the creation of medical savings accounts and various health insurance tax deductions. Daschle lobbies Democrats against the medical savings account provision; Kassebaum appeals to Republicans. In the end, the medical accounts provision is stripped from Dole's amendment 52-46. The final Senate bill contains other Dole provisions, including a provision requiring health plans to provide the same coverage for mental health conditions as physical ones, and a provision protecting volunteer health care workers from lawsuits. (Clymer interview with Littlefield, 08/06/1996; 1996 CQ Almanac, pp. 6-28 to 6-34)

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, Dole pulls an immigration bill (S 1664) from the floor when Daschle attempts to add a minimum wage amendment to it. (1996 CQ Almanac, pp. 7-4; Congressional Record, Washington D.C.: GPO, 04/16/1996, pp. S3350-S3352)

*September* On the 30<sup>th</sup>, EMK and Senator Russell Feingold (D-WI) lead a filibuster against a measure that defines Federal Express as an airline, making it impossible for its

truck drivers to join local unions. EMK uses tactics to delay a vote until October 3<sup>rd</sup> when Daschle and sixteen other Democrats vote for cloture, and the bill passes. (Clymer, pp. 583-584; *1996 CQ Almanac*, pp. 3-37)

## 1997

*May* On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Daschle amends H 1122 that bans “partial birth” abortions. His amendment proposes to “outlaw all abortions for a viable fetus, except in cases where the woman’s life was in danger or to prevent any ‘grievous injury’ to her physical health.” (*1997 CQ Almanac*, pp. 6-17) EMK votes for the amendment, but it fails in a 36-64 vote. A ban is passed but Clinton vetoes it. (*1997 CQ Almanac*, pp. 6-17, S-14)

*July* On the 31<sup>st</sup>, the Senate passes the child health insurance plan. It provides \$23.4 billion to expand health care to uninsured children. EMK credits Daschle as one of the leaders of this plan. (Clymer, pp. 592; *1997 CQ Almanac*, pp. 6-5)

## 1998

*May-Oct.* On the 18<sup>th</sup>, Daschle votes for S 1723 to expand the number of H-1B temporary visas for high-tech industry workers. EMK votes against the bill since it does not contain enough provisions for American workers in the high-tech field. By August, Clinton threatens to veto a similar House bill for the same reason and Daschle agrees to help block the bill. The final bill contains provisions for American workers and both chambers pass the compromise bill in October with Clinton signing it into law. (*1998 CQ Almanac*, pp. 17-3 to 17-9, S-24)

*June* Daschle leads Democratic efforts to invoke cloture on S 1415, the tobacco settlement bill to curb teen-age smoking. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, Daschle tries a final time to pass the bill with a vote to waive the budget act, but he fails to get the required 60 votes. (*1998 CQ Almanac*, pp. 15-12)

*July* Daschle introduces the Senate Democrats’ managed care bill as an amendment to an appropriations bill (S 2168) for the departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and other agencies. The bill is designed to give patients greater access to specialists, to emergency care, and to a speedy appeals process to resolve disputes with insurers over medical care. The measure would give patients the right to sue health plans under state law for malpractice. Daschle introduces the plan as an amendment because Republicans would not allow an open debate on managed care. Daschle does not consult EMK before making the move, but EMK defends the managed care bill on the Senate floor. Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) responds by pulling the appropriations bill from consideration. The Senate never votes on the managed care bill in 1998. The House passes (216-210) a Republican managed care bill (HR 4250) but Daschle’s motion to bring it to the Senate floor is defeated 47-50. (*1998 CQ Almanac*, pp. 2-105, 14-3)

- Fall* Daschle sends EMK to a four-person conference on education appropriations, where he secures \$1.2 billion in block grants to hire new teachers. (Clymer, pp. 598-599; *1998 CQ Almanac*, pp. 2-74)
- September* On the 24<sup>th</sup>, Daschle holds a regular lunch meeting of Democratic Senators on Clinton's impeachment. In the meeting, EMK reportedly expresses concern that Clinton might still be a 'moving target,' implying that there still might be other women out there with whom Clinton has had indiscretions. (Peter Baker, *The Breach: Inside the Impeachment and Trial of William Jefferson Clinton*, New York: Scribner, 2000, pp. 110)
- October* The Republicans introduce their own Patient's Bill of Rights bill, but omits many of the most important rights, including the right to sue in state courts. It also offers no rights to the one-third of the population covered by plans where the employers, not the insurers, bear the financial risk (self-insured plans). On the 9<sup>th</sup>, Daschle motions to have the Senate consider the bill with EMK voting with him, but it loses by three votes. (*1998 CQ Almanac*, pp. S-48)
- December* Clinton calls EMK on the 16<sup>th</sup> to ask for his help to get 35 Senate Democrats to sign a letter stating that Clinton's behavior does not constitute an impeachable offense. EMK reportedly feels that Daschle should take the lead in rounding up the 35 senators, and gives Daschle a call. Daschle argues that securing only 35 signatures at this time would be counter-productive unless they could get a majority of the Senators to sign the letter.
- EMK meets with Clinton at the White House on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Clinton says that he has spoken with Daschle, who says he has the support of all the Democrats except Byrd.

## **1999**

- January* Before the impeachment trial, both EMK and Daschle staff members work together on Senate questions and investigate precedents found in the Andrew Johnson's impeachment trial.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Senate holds a closed-door caucus to debate on how to proceed with the impeachment trial. EMK comes to the aid of Senator William Philip 'Phil' Gramm (R-TX) when Gramm calls for a preliminary agreement for a trial to at least hear the House Managers regarding the impeachment charges, rather than simply having a partisan vote right away. EMK, Gramm, Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) and Thomas Gorton (R-WA) are designated to hash out the details with the lawyers of Lott and Daschle. After some tense debates in private, an agreement is reached and a 4 PM Senate vote is scheduled. The plan calls for a two week trial in which the House Managers would have 24 hours to present their case, followed by 24 hours from the White House defense, followed by 16 hours



of questions for both sides from the Senate. After this, the plan calls for a vote on two contentious motions, one to dismiss the charges entirely, and the other to call witnesses. The proposal seems to succeed precisely because it puts off the contentious issue of calling witnesses (most controversially, Lewinsky) until a later date. With a 100-0 vote, the senators unanimously agree on this preliminary schedule for the impeachment trial. (Baker, pp. 292-293; Clymer, pp. 601-602; *1999 CQ Almanac*, pp. 13-4)

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, a patient rights bill (S 6) is introduced in the Senate. Daschle is the chief sponsor and EMK is one of 31 co-sponsors. The bill never gets out of the Senate HELP Committee. (*1999 CQ Almanac*, pp. 16-4, 16-8, S-37)

On the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, the Senate holds closed debate on contentious motions to dismiss the impeachment charges immediately and to conduct depositions of key witnesses that would be videotaped and shown in the Senate and to the national public. Prior to the debates, EMK votes with the unsuccessful minority on two motions to amend impeachment rules and allow open (rather than closed) debate on both the motion to dismiss and the motion to depose. Both motions for open debate fall well short of the two-thirds majority needed to amend the impeachment rules. (*1999 CQ Almanac*, pp. 13-18)

*June* Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) amends an agricultural spending bill to include patients' bill of rights legislation. Daschle had warned Lott this would happen, but the Republicans reportedly do not take the threat seriously. Lott responds by attaching the Republican bill of rights legislation (S 326) to the spending bill. Both amendments are subsequently removed. (*1999 CQ Almanac*, pp. 16-8, S-37)

*November* On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Daschle announces that after negotiations, Democrats and Republicans agree to add their own minimum wage amendments to a bankruptcy bill. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, the Senate votes on EMK's amendment to raise the wage to \$6.15/hr. in two years. It includes tax breaks for businesses that might be affected by the increase. Republicans try to add one year to it and more business incentives. The Senate kills EMK's amendment by a vote of 50-48, while the Republican amendment is adopted. The question of how to compensate businesses for the increase halts any more action. (*1999 CQ Almanac*, pp. 11-4 to 11-5, S-71)

## **2000**

*February* On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Senate passes a bankruptcy bill (HR 833) by a vote of 83-14 that includes the Republican plan to raise the minimum wage one dollar to \$6.15/hr. in three years. Both Daschle and EMK support a separate bill for the minimum wage since they want a raise in two years. (*2000 CQ Almanac*, pp. 14-6)

*May* Daschle and EMK do not support the Republican efforts to rewrite the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to give state and local authorities more control over education. Democrats fight to retain the targeting of federal dollars

to specific needs. The bill (S 2) is pulled from the floor. (2000 CQ Almanac, pp. 9-3 to 9-7)

*May-Oct.* Daschle, a longtime supporter of bankruptcy reform, works with Democrats in hopes of getting a compromise bankruptcy bill passed. EMK and other Democrats reportedly oppose the present reform bill (HR 833) because it does not include enough relief for people making less than \$39,000 a year. EMK also opposes the Republican minimum wage amendment attached to the bill. A new bill is introduced in October without the minimum wage amendment. Daschle talks with Clinton, who threatens to veto the bill because it does not give enough relief to low income families, and it omits a passage limiting bankruptcy protection for anti-abortion protestors from seeking bankruptcy to avoid fines. Daschle and EMK vote against the bill and Clinton pocket vetoes it. (2000 CQ Almanac, pp. 5-3 to 5-14, S-53)

*June* Clinton and Daschle are eager to get a Senate vote on managed care as the November election nears, but negotiations stall. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, Daschle and EMK amend the House managed-care bill on a defense measure, but it is voted down (51-48). No further action is taken. (2000 CQ Almanac, pp. 12-12, S-23; Congressional Record, 06/08/2000, pp. S4787-S4788)

*September* The Senate debate S 2045, the H-1B high tech workers visa bill. The Democrats try to use the bill to add a provision to make it easier for a variety of groups to become permanent residents, but the Republicans balk at this plan. Daschle and EMK state it is unfair to single out a well-paid group over poorer immigrants. (2000 CQ Almanac, pp. 15-11)

*November* George W. Bush defeats Al Gore in a contested presidential election. The Democrats pick up seats in the Senate to force a 50-50 split.

## **2001**

*January* The Democrats regain control of the Senate for 17 days. Daschle is Senate Majority Leader, until Al Gore, who has been the tie-breaking vote in the evenly split Senate as Vice President, is replaced by Dick Cheney, giving the GOP control of the House, Senate, and White House. Daschle then becomes Senate Minority Leader.

*June* On the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Democrats regain control of the Senate when Jeffords leaves the Republican Party to caucus with the Democrats as an Independent. Daschle becomes Senate Majority Leader.

Daschle brings the managed care/patients' rights legislation (S1052) sponsored by EMK, John McCain (R-AZ), and John Edwards (D-NC) to the floor for a vote. He threatens to keep the Senate in session through the Fourth of July recess to finish the debate. In a reverse of last year, the Senate bill now contains greater patient

protections than a House bill. It passes the Senate by a vote of 59 to 36 on the 29<sup>th</sup> with EMK and Daschle voting for it. (2001 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 12-3 to 12-5, S-46)

*September* 9/11 terrorist attacks strike New York and the Pentagon. EMK urges Daschle to reconvene the Senate that same night, but Daschle decides to wait until the next morning. (Tom Daschle and Michael D'Orso, *Like No Other Time*, New York: Crown Publishers, 2003, pp. 116)

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, EMK and Daschle vote in favor of a joint resolution authorizing the use of force against those responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The Senate passes the resolution 98-0. (Roll Call Vote Summary, 107<sup>th</sup> Congress)

*October* On the 15<sup>th</sup>, a white envelope filled with two grams of anthrax is delivered to Daschle's office. An aid opens the letter releasing the anthrax in the Hart Senate Office building. (2001 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 1-12)

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, white powder spills out of an envelope addressed to EMK's office in Boston. The powder tests negative for anthrax. (*The Boston Globe*, 10/19/2001)

*December* Daschle holds a meeting with key Democrats like EMK about mandatory federal funds for the ESEA reauthorization bill (No Child Left Behind Act). Paul Wellstone (D-MN) and EMK argue that federal money, especially for special education, will be needed to implement the testing and to rectify any deficiencies discovered by the testing. Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Evan Bayh (D-IN) argue that the money could be put into another bill. (Daschle and D'Orso, pp. 98; 2001 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 8-3 to 8-10)

## 2002

*March* Republicans block EMK's pension reform bill (S 1992) from reaching the Senate floor. Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) also drafts a bill (S 1971) for pension reform which, unlike EMK's bill, does not allow workers to sit on pension plan boards. Daschle asks Baucus and EMK to work out the differences. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 12-5; *The Washington Post*, 08/18/2002)

*June* Daschle offers debate on bills to ban cloning. S 2439 only permits cloning to extract cells for biomedical research, and EMK supports this bill. S 1899 bans cloning even for medical research. Daschle wants to have Senators debate each bill for 8 hours and vote. However, Daschle realizes he does not have 60 votes to end a debate, so he shelves his plan. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 17-5 to 17-6)

Daschle files for cloture to stop debate on the hate crimes bill (S 625), but fails to get enough votes. EMK and Daschle meet together with their staffs to discuss strategies for passing the bill. (2002 *Congressional Quarterly Weekly*, Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 06/11/2002, 12/07/2002, pp. 3204)

Daschle makes a commitment to allow a vote on repealing the estate tax, although Daschle and EMK oppose Bush's tax cuts. Gramm tries to waive the budget rules to extend the estate tax. Daschle and EMK vote against the waiver, which fails to get the required 60 votes. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 16-5-to 16-6)

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, the prescription drug bill (S 2625) sponsored by EMK, Bob Graham (D-FL), and Zell Miller (D-GA) is introduced. The bill would cost an estimated \$594 billion over 10 years. Daschle supports the bill, but it does not pass. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 10-6, S-38)

*July* On the 31<sup>st</sup>, the Senate passes S 812, a drug patent bill, with a vote of 78 to 21 with EMK and Daschle supporting the bill. It allows a single 30 month stay against FDA approval of a generic drug patent when a brand name's patent is challenged. It also allows the import of cheaper Canadian drugs. The House fails to pass a similar measure. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 10-7, S-41)

*August* After EMK, McCain, Edwards and the Bush administration fail to reach agreement on a patients' rights bill after months of informal negotiations, Daschle moves to appoint conferees to reconcile the Senate (S 1052) and House (HR 2563) versions. Republicans object to the move and neither chamber ends up appointing conferees in 2002. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 10-7 to 10-8)

*September* Baucus and EMK unveil a compromise pension bill. The only provision included from EMK's bill is that employees can sell their stock after three years. EMK proposes an amendment allowing employees to sit on trustee boards that manage 401(k) plans, but Republicans reportedly view it as a way to allow unions into corporate boards. EMK considers including language to limit how employees can invest. Daschle does not send the bill to the floor after Republicans threaten to filibuster and attach other unrelated amendments. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 12-6)

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Daschle calls a late afternoon meeting of Democratic senators to discuss a White House draft of the Iraq war resolution, which would give Bush the authority to attack Iraq. EMK states that such open-ended authority should not be given to Bush without United Nations (UN) backing. During debate, Democrats including EMK try to restrict the resolution's use of force. The Democrats led by Daschle reportedly place too many restrictions on military action for Bush, and the White House moves its negotiations to the House. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 9-5)

*October* On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Senate passes a resolution authorizing the use of military force against Iraq with a vote of 77-23. EMK votes against the resolution, while Daschle votes for it. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. S-17)

On the 25<sup>th</sup>, Wellstone is killed in a plane crash. Daschle considers Fritz Mondale as a replacement. During a call, EMK and Daschle discuss strategies for

convincing Mondale to accept the Senate seat. EMK and Daschle also travel together to the memorial service at the University of Minnesota. (Daschle and D'Orso, pp. 256-257, 259)

*November* The Republicans regain control of the Senate in the midterm elections, returning to the GOP control of the House, Senate, and White House. EMK loses chairmanship of the HELP Committee and Daschle becomes Minority Leader.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Daschle, EMK, and five other Senators sign a letter to Bush urging him to endorse HR 3529 extending unemployment benefits for 13 weeks in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. Bush refuses to get involved and no further action is taken. (2002 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 12-6 to 12-7)

## 2003

*February* Byrd and EMK continue to call for a second Iraq war resolution. This tactic is opposed by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Daschle, who declare a lack of Democratic unity on the issue. Pelosi and Daschle are reportedly unwilling to risk a second legislative defeat on the issue. (*The New York Times*, 02/15/2003)

*May* On the 9<sup>th</sup>, Bill Frist (R-TN) introduces S Res 138 to amend rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate relating to nominations. The first cloture motion would require 60 votes, a second one only 57 votes, and a third only 54. If all of those votes fail, a fourth cloture could be approved with just 51 votes. EMK and Daschle organize the opposition. The resolution never reaches the floor as it does not have enough votes to break a filibuster. (2003 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 6-3)

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Daschle and EMK amend HJ Res 51, a resolution to increase the limit on the federal budget. EMK's amendment extends temporary federal unemployment insurance program until December 31<sup>st</sup> and provide 26 weeks of benefits for those whose benefits lapsed. It fails by a 50-49 vote with Daschle voting in favor. Daschle's amendment expresses a sense of the Senate that Social Security cost of living increase should not be reduced. It is supported by EMK but fails 52-47. (2003 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 5-13, S-39)

*November* During Senate debate, EMK calls the HR 1 Medicare prescription bill "a calculated program to unravel Medicare, to privatize it, to voucherize it, and to put seniors in the cold arms of HMOs." EMK and Daschle work together on a filibuster. EMK loses a cloture vote by 70-29. Daschle then raises a budget point of order against the bill that competition and health savings account provisions violate the terms of the 2004 budget resolution. He loses by a vote of 61-39. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, EMK and Daschle vote against HR 1 but it passes by a vote of 54-44. (2003 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 11-8, S-82)

## 2004

*January* Senators Daschle, EMK, and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) work together on an immigration bill that would provide certain undocumented workers legal status. However, EMK ends up working with McCain on a more comprehensive bill, while Daschle and Hagel introduce their own bill. (*CQ Weekly*, 01/10/2004, pp. 97; *The Washington Post*, 05/15/2005)

*April* Daschle and EMK cosponsor S 2328, a drug import bill. The bill will allow cheaper drugs into the U.S. from Canada. Pharmacists and wholesalers can also import drugs from the European Union. (*2004 CQ Almanac*, pp. 10-4)

*July* The Senate votes on the Federal Marriage Amendment. Daschle and EMK rally support against the amendment that would define a marriage as being between a man and a woman. The Republicans fail to invoke cloture (48-50) and pull the bill. (*CQ Weekly*, 07/17/2004, pp. 1724)

EMK successfully works to bring the 2004 Democratic National Convention to Boston. John Kerry is nominated as the Democratic presidential nominee.

*November* On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Republican John Thune beats Daschle in the election. (*The Washington Post*, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/elections/2004/sd/>)

Bush defeats Kerry in the presidential election.

## **2008**

*January* EMK announces his support for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama. It is reported he calls Daschle before he makes his announcement. Daschle has been active behind the scenes pushing for Obama's nomination among key Democrats. (*The New York Times*, 02/05/2008)

*May* EMK is diagnosed with a brain tumor.

*August* EMK makes a surprise appearance and speech at the Democratic National Convention.

*Nov.-Dec.* Obama nominates Daschle for Secretary of Health and Human Services and tasks him to lead his transition health-policy working group. Daschle organizes informal and town hall meetings, including meetings with Baucus and EMK. (*The Washington Post*, 12/08/2008; *The Boston Globe*, 12/26/2008, 02/04/2009)

## **2009**

*January* On the 8<sup>th</sup>, EMK presides over Daschle's first confirmation hearing. Daschle promises action to reform healthcare and states the Clinton healthcare plan taught

him the importance of getting cooperation between Congress, the White House, and insurance companies. (*The New York Times*, 01/09/2009)

*February*

On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Daschle withdraws his name from nomination after it is learned he paid \$146,000 in back taxes and interest. Daschle reportedly calls EMK afterwards. (*The Washington Post*, 02/04/2009; *The Boston Globe*, 02/15/2009)

## THOMAS DASCHLE (D-SD) FACT SHEET

*Prepared by Bryan Craig*

*Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/20/2009*

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### *House Service: 1978-1987*

### *Senate Career: 1987-2005*

- Minority Leader (1995-2001)
- Majority Leader (2001-2003)
- Minority Leader (2003-2005)

### *Obama Administration*

- Heads the Obama transition's health-policy working group
- Nominated as Secretary of Health and Human Services (withdrawn in February, 2009)

### *Committees with EMK:*

- None

### *Other Senate committees:*

- Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry (1987-2005)
- Finance (1987-1994; 2001-2005). Served on Medicare and Long Term Care and Social Security and Family Policy Subcommittees.

### *Issues that Daschle worked on with EMK:*

- Health care reform: Daschle and EMK worked on the Clinton & Mitchell universal health care bills (1994), EMK-Kassebaum bill (1996), managed care (1998-2001), Patient bill of rights (1998-2002), prescription drugs (2002-2003), drug import bill (2004), and set reform as a high priority when Daschle was Obama's nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services (2008-2009).
- Educational funding: Daschle and EMK restored \$1.3 billion for children programs (1995), Daschle sent EMK to a four-person conference on block grants where EMK helped secure \$1.2 billion for new teachers (1998), and Daschle and EMK restored special education funds in No Child Left Behind (2001-02).
- Minimum wage: EMK and Daschle worked together to try to raise the minimum wage (1995, 1996, 1999, and 2000).
- "Contract with America": EMK and Daschle fought GOP cuts in welfare and education funding (1995).
- Clinton impeachment: Daschle conducted meetings with Senate Democrats including EMK; EMK and Daschle discussed strategies on the trial.

### *Other important issues that came up during this time:*

- 9/11 Terrorist Attacks
- Anthrax attack on Daschle's office
- 2002-2003 Iraq war resolutions