

retired on February 5, 1995. I regret that his retirement, the time he had so looked forward to spending with his family and many friends, was cut so short.

But, the time and service he gave to the Senate will always be appreciated by those of us who benefited from his positive outlook and his constant good humor. Rarely was Dr. Halverson seen by Senators, staff, or support personnel without a smile and a "God bless you."

And, perhaps the one thing I admired most about Dr. Halverson was the fact that he served not only the institution of the Senate, but also Senators as individuals. He could see beyond policy debates, beyond partisan politics, beyond institutional glamour and mire. He could look beyond our roles on this great international stage and help us carry the burdens we felt as husbands or wives, parents, neighbors, or friends.

Though ordained as clergy in the Presbyterian denomination, his ministry reached out to us all. Catholic, Jew, Methodist, or Mormon, Dr. Halverson helped us all to remember that our walk in faith was infinitely more important than any legislative battle of the moment.

Like all Senators, I mourn the death of this man of God, but give thanks for the opportunity to have known him and to have served this body with him. I join my colleagues in extending heartfelt sympathy to his family.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND THE LABOR, HHS, AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL— H.R. 2127

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, as chairman of the Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, I want to update the Senate on the status of the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill, H.R. 2127, as it relates to the continuing resolution and the implications of the Senate's inaction on the bill for programs of the Department of Labor, HHS, and Education. In particular, I want to focus on the need to free up low-income energy assistance funds, which are so crucial at this time of year, when winter descends upon cold water States.

As Senators know, the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996 is still on the Calendar. Efforts to bring it up in the Senate have been met with a filibuster due to the "striker replacement" provision and the abortion issue. I opposed the "striker replacement provision being added to the bill in committee, because of the view that controversial legislative riders do not belong on an appropriation bill, but should be considered through the authorization process. In the case of the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill, the legislative riders included by the House have stalled action on this important bill in the Senate, and indefinitely postponed funding for education, health, job training, and social service programs in this fiscal year.

While the continuing resolution will ensure that some funding will be available for these programs, it is only on a short-term basis and at a minimal level. But, in some cases, the CR level effectively eliminates the viability of the program. The LIHEAP Program is one such example. LIHEAP provides funds to States to help low-income households meet their fuel bills during the winter months when costs soar due to cold weather. A high percentage of the program's beneficiaries are elderly and disabled people who need help in paying their fuel bills.

Mr. President, it is already very cold in many parts of the Nation. Our reliance on continuing resolutions since October 1 has put LIHEAP funds in jeopardy. Under the terms of the continuing resolution, \$231 million has been made available to the States. This is far short of the nearly \$600 million already requested by the States to get through the first quarter of the fiscal year. In previous years an average of 60 percent of the annual appropriation for LIHEAP has been allocated to the States in the first quarter, and 90 percent by March 30.

Many States have begun receiving requests for assistance, and under normal circumstances would begin distributing funds to participants at this time. However, because of the present stalemate in the Senate on the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill, States have no idea how to plan for this winter's program, and hundreds of thousands of low-income families are left wondering how they will be able to meet their winter heating bills. Low-income households, as well as Governors and local officials across the country are waiting to learn whether, and how much, funding will be appropriated for this winter's LIHEAP Program.

For low-income residents of cold-weather States like Pennsylvania, winter can mean choosing between eating and heating. We must not let our budgetary stalemate in the Nation's Capitol unduly burden the poor and elderly with respect to such a basic need as heated homes and apartments.

I have supported the previous continuing resolutions because they provide critical short-term funding for Federal activities. But I want to make clear, it is time for the Senate to act on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. Let's stop the filibuster, agree to bring up the bill, debate it, and let the Senate work its will.

In the meantime, it is imperative that the harsh restrictions on funding for LIHEAP be lifted. It is unfair to hold hostage essential assistance to the poor and elderly in cold weather States as Congress continues to deliberate on the budget.

Mr. President, winter's cold knows no political affiliation. The LIHEAP Program has had years of bipartisan support. Now is the time for all Senators to work together to ensure that

our constituents in need are not denied heating assistance this winter.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM K. SAHR, LEGAL CHAMPION

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, the legal profession in my home State of South Dakota has lost a great counsel. Bill Sahr, a long-time friend and supporter, passed away on Monday. I will miss him.

For many years, Bill headed the State Bar of South Dakota. In that capacity, he epitomized the very best of the legal profession in our State. An indefatigable worker on behalf of the legal community, Bill also served the people of our State and Nation with great distinction.

Bill's public service career began with a memorable tour of duty with the U.S. Army during World War II. During the war, he was with the troops at the Battle of the Bulge, later receiving four battle stars along with his European Medal. Beginning his legal career in our State's capital, Pierre, Bill later served two terms as State's attorney from Hughes County. In 1962, Bill began walking the two blocks from the lovely historic home he shared with his wife Carla and their children to the State capitol, where he served two terms as a legislator.

His legal background, coupled with his legislative experience, made Bill a perfect candidate to head the State Bar of South Dakota. Bill played a major role in shaping and bringing into being South Dakota's present-day legal system. It is hard to imagine anyone who had more influence on the legal system and the profession of law in our State than Bill Sahr.

In addition to being a great professional, Bill Sahr was a great individual. He had a quiet demeanor coupled with a keen intellect and sharp wit. You could count on his word. Bill's engaging smile made you want to stay and listen to him while he worked his quiet, highly effective powers of persuasion upon you.

During his threescore and eleven years on this earth, Bill Sahr accomplished the work of several lifetimes for the profession he loved and the people of South Dakota. Bill Sahr—a legal legend of our State—will be truly missed.

I ask unanimous consent that the obituary for Bill Sahr from the December 5, 1995, edition of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Argus Leader, Dec. 5, 1995]

SAHR, 71, WORKED HARD TO HELP JUDICIAL SYSTEM

(By Denise D. Tucker)

PIERRE.—With a quiet and unassuming manner, Bill Sahr often stood in the shadows and rarely took credit for the work that he did in shaping the South Dakota legal system.

"He had a hand or influence on every lawyer in the state for 35 years," said Thomas Barnett, executive director of the South Dakota Bar Association in Pierre.

Sahr, 71, who was serving as secretary-treasurer of the State Bar Association, died Monday, Dec. 4, 1995, at his home, due to lung cancer.

"He had a history of over 30 years in Bar leadership," said Barnett. "I was fortunate to work with him through most of my career."

During his career, Sahr, through the Bar Association, established the nation's first prepaid continuing legal education; he spearheaded legislative approval for passage of funding for a new University of South Dakota Law School; and worked for improvement of judicial compensation.

He also introduced the first bill for a state employee retirement system. "This was a biggie for the state," said Sahr's son, Dan of Sioux Falls. "Before that there was nothing for state employees."

Barnett said, "He worked to serve the people of South Dakota. He was instrumental in lobbying pieces that helped everybody."

Beresford attorney Robert "Bob" Frieberg acknowledged Sahr's contribution to the state.

"His influence shaped the Bar, judiciary and modern legal system in South Dakota," he said. "His was the biggest influence of a single person."

Frieberg said that Sahr was committed to improve the legal system whenever he could.

Although he didn't know for sure, Frieberg believed that Sahr had a sense that he had an obligation to leave the world better than he found it.

"He was just a neat guy," he said. "One of a kind. I'm gonna miss him."

With a tear sliding down his face, Frieberg added, "He was a great friend."

Sahr's legal career began in 1957, when he opened a law practice in Pierre. He served for two terms as the Hughes County States Attorney, from 1958 to 1962. He then served two terms in the South Dakota House of Representatives, from 1962 to 1967. He was elected in 1961 as secretary-treasurer of the state Bar. He retired on July 31, 1989, from his position as executive director of the Bar Association, after 28 years with the organization.

William Karcher Sahr was born July 21, 1924, in Pierre. He attended Pierre Public School and was graduated from Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, Ill., in 1942.

He served in the Army from 1943 to 1946, during World War II. He served in the Battle of the Bulge. He received the European Medal with four Battle Stars.

In 1954, he graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and from its law school in 1957.

He married Carla Aplan in 1953.

From 1973 to 1978, he was a member of the Pierre Board of Education. He also served on the St. Mary's Hospital Law Advisory Board, president of the Pierre Carnegie Library Board for 19 years, and on the Pierre City Board of Adjustment for 10 years.

He was a member of the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, VFW, the Elks Club, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, the American Bar Association, the Jackrabbit Bar Association, and the National Association of Bar Executives.

He received a Recognition Award from the University of South Dakota Law School in 1982, the Appreciation Award from the South Dakota Trial Lawyers Association, and the McKusick Award from the USD School of Law in 1987.

"He was proud of this," Dan Sahr said, of his father receiving the McKusick Award.

The award recognizes an outstanding member of the South Dakota legal community for contributions to the profession.

In addition to his wife and son, survivors include four other children: James, Los Angeles; Marguerite Moreland, Littleton, Colo.; Elizabeth Squyer, Sioux Falls; and Robert, Boulder, Colo.

Services, for Sahr, begin at 11 a.m. Thursday in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Pierre, with burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 3 to 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Feigum Funeral Home in Pierre. Prayer service begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the funeral home.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of donations to the Countryside Hospice of Pierre or to the South Dakota Law School Foundation.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, almost 4 years ago I commenced these daily reports to the Senate to make a matter of record the exact Federal debt as of the close of business the previous day.

As of the close of business Wednesday, December 6, the Federal debt stood at exactly \$4,988,640,469,699.34. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,936.97 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

FLAG PROTECTION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I strongly support Senate Joint Resolution 31, which amends the Constitution to protect the flag of the United States from those who would desecrate it.

The American flag is a national symbol of the values this country was founded on. Many Americans have fought and died to defend these values and this country. It is an insult to these patriots, their relatives, and all other citizens who hold this country dear, to burn or desecrate the symbol of our Nation and our freedom.

I certainly support the right of all citizens to freedom of speech, but that right has never been absolute in our country. That is why there are laws against libel, slander, perjury, and obscenity. Similarly, our freedom of political expression is also limited. No one can legally deface the Supreme Court building or the Washington Monument, no matter how much he or she might wish to protest a particular government policy or law. The American flag, deserves special protection under the Constitution. It simply is not necessary to commit an act of violence against this flag to register protest against the Government. Passage of Senate Joint Resolution 31 will help ensure our national symbol receives the respect and protection it deserves.

Again, Mr. President, I offer my strong support for Senate Joint Resolution 31 and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

REV. RICHARD C. HALVERSON

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, our former Senate Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Richard Halverson, will be sorely missed, especially by those of us who

had the great privilege of knowing him and benefiting from his special ministry.

His daily prayers and his words of greeting, whenever we met, were most comforting. History should record that as a result of his guidance, many unfortunate adversarial crises were successfully averted in the Senate. I believe he succeeded to helping maintain the Senate on an even keel.

We will miss him. I will miss him.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—CON- FERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2076.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2076) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of December 1, 1995.)

Mr. GREGG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to proceed today with the conference report on the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations.

This legislation comes forward after a considerable amount of activity and, obviously, some ups and downs on the road to passage. It is, however, I believe, an excellent piece of legislation in light of the hand which has been dealt. Clearly, in an attempt to balance this budget, we have had to make some significant reductions in this account overall in order to meet our goal of a balanced budget within 7 years. The numbers which were assigned to us by the Budget Committee and then allocated to us by the Appropriations Committee put us to the test in the area of trying to reach this goal. But I believe we have reached it in a very positive and responsible way.

The essential thrust of this bill is to make sure that we adequately fund the activities of our criminal justice system and to make sure that we have