

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 minutes to close.

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

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I understand the thrust of the amendment of the Senator, and I do not think anybody can disagree with the essence of it. It is a sense of the Senate, or a sense of the Congress. Let me also indicate, Mr. President, I think the message that the Senator wants to send to the public is that we have stated an action in this bill, for we have not in this bill rescissions relating to the subject matter of children. Therefore, I think we can say that this is a powerful statement the Congress is sending to the people as well.

I want to just indicate two or three items as an example of the focus the Senate Appropriations Committee put on the rescissions. First, the rescissions were basically in the unobligated funds. Second, we were not only concerned about children and young people. We have in this a far, far different document than the rescissions on student aid, as it relates to the elderly and the needs of the elderly and low-income energy assistance.

I think this document represents a very powerful statement to the public of this country that we have put a focus upon people's needs, and that we have shown the compassion, the concerns, for people's needs in this particular document.

At the same time, we have reduced our spending for this particular fiscal year by \$13.5 billion.

So I am ready to accept the amendment offered by the Senator as a sense of the Congress and take it to conference.

I thank the Senator for his compassion and for his passionate plea on behalf of this. I think it certainly is in concert and certainly represents the work of the Appropriations Committee in focusing upon people's needs—not just children, but the elderly and other people, as well.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator may have another minute.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, actually, what I would like to do is I would like to get to this vote. But first I would like to suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague, the distinguished chair of the Appropriations Committee. I have been at this a long time with this amendment, and I am very, very pleased with this result.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question now occurs on the amendment.

The amendment (No. 422) was agreed to.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENDED RETIREMENT

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President and Members of the Senate, all Members in the Senate are faced with making difficult decisions almost daily. This day marks one of the most difficult decisions I have been faced with during my 16-plus years in this body. After wrestling with this decision for some time, I have decided not to seek reelection in 1996, and to retire from elective office at the end of my term. Simply put, the time to pass the torch to another generation is near.

I have undergone a series of medical examinations by specialists in recent months. While I have problems, nevertheless, my health is good, and I am assured I face no predictable crisis. I continue to work as I have throughout my adult life. While in Washington, I spend 6½ days a week in the office; and while in Alabama, a similar amount of time is devoted to Senate duties. My health problems have not slowed me down, and I do not expect any change in my work habits in the foreseeable future.

This has not been an easy decision because I have always enjoyed campaigning, and the desire to once again hit the campaign trail is a powerful urging. I have been particularly gratified with the overwhelming offer of volunteered support from Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike urging me to run again. I believe I can be reelected, perhaps not with the high percentage of more than 60 percent of the vote that I have received in my last four primary and four general statewide elections, but I am confident I could win by a good majority.

There are numerous factors that have entered into my decision. There is no compelling reason to go into detail about these factors, other than to say that in fairness to any who may seek to succeed me the time to make my announcement is now.

At the conclusion of my term, I will have served the people of Alabama for 24 years, and I hope that I will be looked upon as a public servant who has served with dignity, integrity, and

diligence, worthy of the confidence and trust that the people of Alabama bestow upon me.

Throughout my years in the Senate, I have endeavored to stay in touch with the people. I have visited each of the 67 counties in Alabama at least once a year, except for one year when I spent considerable time in the hospital during the recess periods. I have listened to Alabamians from all walks of life on every conceivable issue in over 1,000 town meetings and 500 high school visits.

I have endeavored to represent Alabama in a studied, impartial, and fair-minded manner. My record certainly indicates at least an independent streak. I hope Alabamians know that my decisions were based on what I thought was in the best interest of my State and Nation. While some may argue or disagree with my decisions, I was convinced that I was right. And I believe most Alabamians felt that nothing more could be expected of me.

My service in the U.S. Senate has been rewarding, and I trust of benefit to the people of America and Alabama. I am indeed grateful that America faces no immediate threat to her borders from foreign military powers. I am particularly proud of the role that I played in rebuilding our Armed Forces and military strength during the aftermath of the Vietnam war. This commitment on the part of our Nation contributed to the collapse of the old Soviet Union and its Communist philosophy. This commitment proved itself again during the Persian Gulf war. With my own experiences in World War II and observations since that time, I felt compelled that we must at all times endeavor to obtain lasting peace, and that the only road to achieving this goal was and is through strength.

I am particularly proud of my efforts in other areas, such as agriculture, the judiciary, education, improved race relations, technology advancements, medical research, family values, the war against crime and drugs, the space program, ethics in government, and many other fields.

The agriculture community, while small in number, is considerably better off today than when I came to the Senate in 1979. During my years on the Agriculture Committee, we have been able to craft farm policy which provides market stability and allows U.S. farmers to aggressively pursue international markets. At the same time, these farm programs have dramatically reduced the cost to the U.S. Treasury. This year may prove to be the most crucial for the American farmers with the well-organized effort in this Congress to abolish farm programs that have worked well for the consumer as well as the farmer.

As most of my colleagues know, I came to this body after serving as Chief Justice of Alabama. I brought to the Senate a desire to achieve much

modernization and reform in our Federal courts. My efforts have been focused on improving the Federal judicial system and relieving court congestion in criminal and civil matters. I have always subscribed to the expression, "Justice delayed is justice denied." We have been successful to a major degree in our efforts to achieve these goals. However, much remains to be done. This country's system of justice today faces one of its greatest threats in the Congress. The foundation of our civil justice system and more than 500 years of the development of common law are under attack, including the right of trial by jury. We will continue the battles to improve the administration of justice, as well as maintain its historic role of protecting the weak, the minorities, and the defenseless.

Mr. President, for 13 years I served on the Senate Ethics Committee—two periods as chairman. My service on the Ethics Committee can be described with many adjectives, none of which include enjoyable. From the description "of how it used to be," I would have to say that I am convinced that the Senate has made great strides in ethical behavior and standards during my time in this body. While there is still room for much improvement, I am, nevertheless, convinced that the Senators now serving are the most ethical in the history of the Senate.

During the last several decades, including the time that I have spent in the Senate, there has been much improvement in civil rights. However, race relations continue as a divisive issue in numerous ways. The path toward the achievement of equal opportunity for all persons, regardless of race, color gender, or creed, has many miles to go. We foster democratic principles throughout the world and have seen democracy make great strides in many nondemocratic countries. Yet our own democracy faces its greatest threat from within. Elected officials, media personalities, elements of political parties, and other organizations strive to pit one group of Americans against another. We must set a new course in this Congress and across the land—a course of moderation, tolerance, responsibility, and compassion. We need to return to the traditional value of being just plain neighborly. Not until we become genuinely "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," can this country realize its potential for true greatness.

I am proud of my staff. I have always been proud of my staff. Most of them have come from Alabama but, regardless, all have worked with devotion, dedication, and professionalism. They have worked with me to assist thousands of Alabamians—and I might say thousands of Americans outside of Alabama—in every imaginable area. Staff members seldom receive praise, but I thank them from the bottom of my heart for the great job that they have

done and the job that I know they will continue to do during the remaining months of my service in the Senate.

No one knows what the future will be, but I plan to return to my beloved Alabama and devote more of my time to the people in my life that I treasure the most—my devoted and lovely wife Elizabeth Ann, who is affectionately also known as "Mike"—my son Tom and his wonderful, talented, and beautiful wife Cornelia—and, Mr. President, the two finest grandchildren a person could be blessed with, Wilson Carmichael Heflin and Mary Catherine Heflin. Wilson is known to his "Pop" as "Wil," and he calls his sister "K.K." because he says Mary Catherine is too much of a mouthful. I do not wish to omit from the treasured list my other friends and relatives in Alabama, particularly those in the Shoals area.

I will enjoy living the remainder of my days in my hometown, for Tuscumbia, AL, is a wonderful little town to be from and it is the best little town in America to go home to.

Mr. President, while my career and work here in the Senate is yet to be completed for I still have much to do, I, nevertheless, thank the people of Alabama "who I so dearly love" for the faith and trust bestowed upon me which allowed me to serve as Chief Justice of Alabama for 6 years and as a U.S. Senator for three terms. I also thank my Creator for the blessing of health during my three score and thirteen years thus far, and for having the opportunity to serve this great Nation and my fellow citizens.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). The Senator from Louisiana.

HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, as most Members of this body, I received word of Senator HEFLIN's retirement just a few moments ago. As I began to contemplate his service here, I wondered what was the single word that best epitomized Senator HEFLIN's service. Mr. President, the word that came to mind first was "wisdom."

Wisdom is a rare thing. It is acquired genetically, and our Creator has been very generous with Senator HEFLIN in endowing him with a huge amount of wisdom and a huge amount of ability.

It also is born of experience, and having served the people of Alabama now, both as chief justice and as a Member of this body, for some 23-plus years, he has acquired both the skill and the knowledge, along with that genetically inspired wisdom, to be, indeed, one of the wisest Members of this body.

In fact, if the Senator from Alabama rises on any issue in this Senate, not only do Members of the Senate listen, but as far as this Senator is concerned, he almost always follows, because Senator HEFLIN is seldom wrong and is someone whose wisdom is greatly to be

emulated. Indeed, Mr. President, if I had to make a two-word speech against term limits, it would probably be "HOWELL HEFLIN," because HOWELL HEFLIN's leaving this body will make it a decidedly lesser place.

There are other words that come to mind when you think of HOWELL HEFLIN. Clearly integrity has to be one, because his is an integrity so strong that nobody would ever seek to disparage it. Indeed, no one would seek to defend it. I mean, you do not have to say HOWELL HEFLIN is a man of integrity because that would be redundant. Everyone knows that. It emanates from every pore in his body, from his history and from his lifetime of work.

He was, indeed, the first choice of almost everyone to be a member of the Ethics Committee.

Mr. President, clearly in describing HOWELL HEFLIN, you would have to refer to his sense of humor. It is legendary. It occasionally erupts here on the floor of the Senate. More commonly, in political speeches back in Alabama. I would hate to be the object of his wit, either in Alabama or anywhere else, because, while it is gentle and while it is funny, it can be, indeed, devastating.

I will never forget the story of the Grey Poupon, the way that HOWELL HEFLIN could describe to those who thought themselves too sophisticated to be from Alabama, and the way he could use that humor to not only enlighten and to lighten the debate, but also as a tremendous political weapon.

Mr. President, this Senate will not be the same when HOWELL HEFLIN leaves. It simply will not. It will be a much lesser place. I will be leaving as well. So it is not that I will miss him. I will enjoy service with him for the next year and 8 months. I hope he completes his agenda, as I hope I complete mine.

But, Mr. President, for I think decades to come, people of Alabama will revere the service of one Chief Justice HOWELL HEFLIN and one Senator HOWELL HEFLIN, one of the most outstanding Members this body has ever produced.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, there is one word that comes to my mind, I say to the Senator from Louisiana, and that is character. Certainly, HOWELL HEFLIN is an individual with the highest of integrity and, yes, humor. But it has to be said, I am glad the Senator from Louisiana did not continue on about HOWELL's humor, because most of those stories could not be told on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

We should all remember his work on the Ethics Committee and the outstanding job that HOWELL HEFLIN did as chairman. It is a very thankless task.

The idea of any kind of farm legislation and, as the Senator mentioned earlier, anything concerning peanuts.