

Discrimination in Employment Claims Assistance Act, the Gender Equity in Education Act, the Voting Accessibility for Disabled and Senior Citizens Act, the 1989 Minimum Wage Increase, the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, and key provisions of the Economic Equity Act.

Without question, the past decade and a half has been, legislatively, a bipartisan reaffirmation of civil rights laws and a bipartisan repudiation of the right-wing legal philosophy. Indeed, the right wing did not enact one major item on its regressive civil rights agenda during that time. The LCCR victories are even more remarkable when one considers that during this time two branches of government were hostile to civil rights.

While the civil rights coalition and its congressional allies achieved considerable success, there was a serious downside to the Reagan-Bush years. We had to refight the civil rights battles that had been won during the 1960's and the 1970's. While these battles were won once again, Congress, the civil rights community, and the Nation had to devote an inordinate amount of time, energy and resources in waging these rearguard actions. Consequently, while the legal achievements of the past 30 years were preserved and in a number of instances, strengthened, the Nation by and large was unable to address the unfinished agenda of the civil rights movement—the quest for social and economic justice.

For years, Ralph and his LCCR colleagues have been advocating that economic justice must be the civil rights coalition's top priority. Our legislative efforts should focus primarily on such issues as health care; affordable housing; economic security, especially for women and children; child care; Head Start and other early educational opportunities; employment opportunity, including job creation and job training; and economic empowerment issues. Regrettably, just as this economic opportunity agenda seemed to be moving to the front of the legislative line, once again we may have to devote our energies to resisting efforts to dismantle the legislative achievements of the past several decades.

While the battles will be hard fought, I remain confident that LCCR and its allies will once again defeat the efforts of the right wing, whether the issue be affirmative action or the economic security net for millions of Americans. Indeed, the same type of bipartisanship, creativity, and pragmatism that characterized our efforts in the 1980's and early 1990's will lead us to victory in the last half of the 1990's.

THE EXPLOSIVE INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH OF THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

While the legislative successes are critically important, it is also important to point out the institutional successes as well. The fourteen years Ralph has spent managing LCCR have been characterized by explosive growth. The budget of the Leadership Conference has grown seven-fold since 1981. And the Leadership Conference, always the Nation's largest coalition, has added more than 50 new national organizations, during this time. Some of the new members are the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the Association of Junior Leagues, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, the American Association of University Women, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Service Employees International Union, the Congress of National Black Churches, the American Nurses Association, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, Families USA, the National PTA, People For The American Way, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Citizen Ac-

tion, and the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium. There are now 180 national organizations, with memberships totaling more than 50 million Americans, who belong to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

Such institutional growth has meant also the expansion of LCCR priorities. In addition to minority, gender, religious, and age issues, the Leadership Conference has forged a consensus on disability and gay and lesbian civil rights issues. The exceptional growth of the coalition, while generating new challenges, has made the Leadership Conference stronger and even more effective.

Throughout the years, Ralph has masterfully maintained unity among the diverse elements of the LCCR coalition. And through his work in LCCR, on Capitol Hill, with the Executive Branch, and with the business community, Ralph has earned respect for his ability to build bridges between disparate communities of interest and across the spectrum of political ideologies.

Ralph has also managed the Leadership Conference Education Fund (LCEF), an independent organization that supports educational activities relevant to civil rights. Along with Karen McGill Arrington, LCEF's Deputy Director, he has supervised projects such as an award winning public service advertising campaign promoting tolerance and diversity; a children's anti-discrimination campaign; and the publication of books and reports on emerging civil rights issues.

RALPH'S NEW CAREER

To say the least, things have not slowed down during Ralph's final months as LCCR's Executive Director. He was a key strategist in the successful effort to defeat the Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment. Presently, he is coordinating the campaign to save affirmative action. In addition, Ralph is lecturing one day per week on the legislative process at the University of Chicago Law School.

In May, Ralph will embark on a new phase of his professional life. He will join the Washington law firm of Fox, Bennett, and Turner, where he will be Of Counsel. At the law firm, he will set up an affiliate, The Neas Group, which will provide strategic counseling to business and non-profit institutions. In addition, Ralph will be a Visiting Professor on a part-time basis at the Georgetown University Law Center where he will teach courses on the legislative process.

Among the boards on which he will continue to serve are the Guillain-Barré Syndrome Foundation International, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, and the Children's Charities Foundation.

On behalf of everyone in the Leadership Conference, I want to express our deepest gratitude to Ralph and wish him well in all his new endeavors. We will miss the personal qualities that made Ralph so effective in his job—his cheerfulness and optimism even when facing great challenges, his patience in working with people to resolve differences within the coalition, and the respect he accorded to everyone's point of view. But we know that there will be many opportunities to work with him as we confront the challenges ahead of us. There is no question in my mind that Ralph will continue to be one of the drum majors for justice.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER SENATOR JOHN C. STENNIS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I would like to add my voice to those which have already lamented the passing of our dear former colleague from Mississippi, John Stennis. About 25 of us

went down to Mississippi last week to his funeral to say goodbye to one of the true giants in the history of this institution.

I recall about 10 years ago, some Senators, including myself, went to Senator Stennis' hometown of De Kalb, MS, where the people of De Kalb and surrounding areas had gathered to help celebrate his birthday. There was a great outpouring of love and genuine affection from friends and neighbors who had known him, his father, and others before him. No one really knows an individual in the same way that the people of his hometown do, and you could see that as they came together that day. There was an authentic feeling of closeness and friendship.

De Kalb is a small community, probably smaller than the one I come from. The people there—the salt of the earth—knew their favorite son, John Stennis, for his character and integrity. The great outpouring of affection which was on display that day was the best evidence anyone ever needed of his graciousness, honesty, decency, and dedication to principle. All of us there could see that he stood very tall with those who knew him best.

John Stennis and I had much in common, both of us from southern families that go back for many generations. I used to enjoy the stories he would tell about his early years and how his father would raise cotton, transport it over to Alabama, and ship it down the river to Mobile. We were both judges at one time, which gave us a unique perspective on government, individuals, and human nature in general.

John Cornelius Stennis was born on August 3, 1901, in Kemper County, in the red clay hills of eastern Mississippi. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from what is now Mississippi State University in 1923 and 4 years later, received his law degree from the University of Virginia. Just 1 year later, he was elected to the Mississippi Legislature. He later went on to serve as a district prosecuting attorney and circuit judge.

After 10 years on the bench, he ran in 1947 for the Senate seat held by the flamboyant Senator Theodore G. Bilbo and was elected over five opponents in November. His campaign theme was "I want to plow a straight furrow right down to the end of my row," and that philosophy guided the rest of his career in public service.

Until his last campaign, in 1982, he was never seriously challenged for reelection. Even then, facing future Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour, then only 34, he won by a 2-to-1 margin.

In his early days in the Senate, John would work 16 hours a day, staying in the Senate until it adjourned and then studying in the Library of Congress. He was meticulous in his work, someone who would go over something again and again until he finally mastered its complexities. He was a commanding

presence in the Senate Chamber, where his voice carried such resonance. Even after we had microphones, he would often speak without one.

John Stennis served in the Senate longer than all but one other person in its history. When he retired on January 3, 1989, he had served for 41 years, 1 month, and 29 days. During the 1960's and 1970's, he was the most influential voice in Congress on military affairs. He was chairman of the appropriations Committee, and was instrumental in the development of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, which was extremely important to both our States economically. He changed with the times, and began to support civil rights measures. Due to his integrity, diligence, and judgment, he was often called upon to investigate controversial political matters. It became routine to refer to him as the conscience of the Senate. He was a patriarch and teacher to younger Members.

It his later years, while his voice remained clear and his mind sharp, he experienced serious physical problems. He was shot and seriously wounded by a burglar at his home in 1973, and had a leg amputated in 1984 due to cancer, but each time, he returned to his beloved Senate much sooner than had been expected.

After he retired, Senator Stennis moved to the Mississippi State University campus, home of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, created by Congress to train young leaders. In one of his last interviews, he said, "I do believe the most important thing I can do now is to help young people understand the past and prepare for the future."

At that birthday celebration for John Stennis a decade ago, I had the honor and pleasure of speaking. I ended my speech with an old Irish prayer, which goes:

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the Sun shine warm on your face
And the rains fall soft on your shoulders,
And may the Good Lord hold you in the
hollow of his hand during the remainder of
your days.

He was a deeply religious man, and he told me he was particularly glad I used the prayer as a closing on that occasion.

John Stennis' days are now over, and his passing gives us reason to pause, reflect, and remember that this body is a decidedly better institution, and the United States a better nation, for having had the benefit of this statesman's service for so many years.

TRIBUTE TO BURTON COHEN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is a personal privilege for me to rise today to congratulate a man of considerable achievement in both business and community spirit. Burton Cohen was one of the pioneers who helped lead Las Vegas from its origins as a small gaming

community to the thriving resort city that it has become today. Despite the great demands of his career, he has always devoted great time and energy to the development of our community and our State. Burton Cohen is more than a close friend; he is also a role model for Nevadans and all citizens of our country.

Burton Cohen moved to southern Nevada in 1966 when he became part owner and managing director of the Frontier Hotel. He had previously risen to success as the owner of his own hotel development company in Florida.

His talents were soon recognized throughout the Nevada gaming community, and he was recruited for other leadership positions in Las Vegas at Circus Circus, the Flamingo Hilton, Caesar's Palace, and the Dunes Hotel.

In addition to his considerable contributions to various hotel properties throughout southern Nevada, Burton has been a pivotal factor in shaping Nevada's transition to the 21st century. He was president of the Nevada Resort Association and was on the influential board of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. Without his innovative presence, and his insightful vision, Las Vegas would not be the destination resort and convention center it is today.

Mr. Cohen has always adhered to the needs of our community. He became closely involved in numerous community activities and charitable causes. He served on the board of the Southern Nevada Drug Abuse Council and led a successful campaign for the United Way in the Las Vegas Valley. Burton was a member of the board of directors of the Boys' Clubs of Clark County and the Nevada Division of American Cancer Society. Furthermore, he has also been an active member in the Anti-Defamation League and is currently a trustee of Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas.

Burton Cohen recently announced his retirement from his current position as president and chief executive officer of the Desert Inn Hotel and Country Club. His accomplishments in hotel management and in the community are unrivaled and will be deeply missed. Along with his wife, Linda, Burton has made southern Nevada a better place for tourists and residents alike.

On Saturday, May 20, the Anti-Defamation League will be honoring Burton Cohen with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I can think of no better recipient for this honor, and I want the entire country to know of Burton's achievements and to join those of us in Nevada in recognizing his commitment to excellence.

MR. MAX H. KARL

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to express my sorrow at the passing of my good friend, Max H. Karl. He died on April 19, at the age of 85. Max was a man of vision, intellect, action, and compassion. He lived life to its

fullest extent as a family man, a business man, a philanthropist, a civic minded citizen, and as a man devoted to his faith. Max Karl was a good friend not only to myself and my family, but to all of those who had the good fortune to come into contact with him.

At this time, I also extend my heartfelt condolences to his family. Max is survived by his wife Anita, his son Dr. Robert Karl of Miami, daughter Karyn Schwade of Miami, sister Minnie Friedman of Milwaukee, his brother Dr. Michael Karl of St. Louis, and nine grandchildren.

Mr. President, Max Karl was a man who was devoted to his family, his community and his work. He was a son of Wisconsin, who in every way contributed to the betterment of those around him. Max was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and its law school. He was the founder and chairman of the Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corp., headquartered in my hometown of Milwaukee. Max also served as past president of the Mortgage Insurance Companies of America and as a director of First Wisconsin Corp. and MGIC affiliates.

In the public arena, Max served as a member of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation's advisory committee; the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association Chamber of Commerce; the National Association of Home Builders Roundtable; and was a member of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Business Administration Advisory Council.

Max Karl's other civic activities included serving as a director of the Grand Avenue Corp.; the Greater Milwaukee Committee; the Milwaukee Art Museum; the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra; and the United Performing Arts Fund. Max was also a past trustee of Mt. Sinai Medical Center; Alverno College; the National Multiple Sclerosis Society; and a trustee emeritus of Marquette University.

Among the many awards and commendations he received in recognition of his charitable and civic work, Max was the 1962 recipient of the National Home and House Award; the 1973 recipient of the State of Israel Golda Meir Award; the 1982 Milwaukee Press Club Headliner Award winner; the 1985 Children's Outing Association Father of the Year; and most recently, in 1994, Max Karl was named to the UWM School of Business Administration "Wisconsin Gallery" of leading corporate citizens.

Max Karl was also a giant in the Milwaukee Jewish Community who, among his other accomplishments, served as a past president of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation; a former chairman of Wisconsin State of Israel Bonds; a member of the boards of Hillel Academy and the former Milwaukee Jewish Home. He also served on the boards of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science; Americans for a Safe Israel; American