

special praise. Without his persistent efforts, this debate would never have become a reality.

For Hartford, the Presidential debate provides a remarkable opportunity to give the city a much needed boost of civic and community pride.

Certainly, no one would disagree that our city has seen rough times of late. And, the debate's impact on our community will be sizable.

It's estimated that the event may pump as much as 4 to 5 million dollars into the local economy.

What's more, 2,500 journalists from around the world will be descending on Hartford and will, in many cases, have their first opportunity to see the sights, meet the people, and experience the hospitality of our Connecticut and Hartford.

Most of all though, the coming Presidential debate is sparking a renewed sense of community spirit that will live on long after our visitors have said goodbye Sunday night or Monday morning when they leave the State.

But, as proud a moment as this is for the people of Connecticut it is also a critically important one for our Nation's future and our political process.

In our political process, there are few events as singular and unique as Presidential, and Vice-Presidential, debates.

Since these are the only two elected offices on which all 265 million Americans cast their ballot, Presidential and Vice-Presidential debates provide the American people a platform and context for choosing not just a political leader, but a governing philosophy for America's future.

Now, as every Member of this body knows, our Nation has a long and proud history of political debate.

More than 200 years ago, our founding fathers gathered in Philadelphia to debate, discuss and finally establish what they believed to be a "more perfect union." Some 80 years later our Nation's greatest leaders gathered for some of the most storied and significant oration in American history.

From the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 to the famous Breckinridge/Baker Senate debate of 1861, which one commentator called "perhaps the most dramatic scene that ever took place in the Senate Chamber" American leaders intensely pondered the issue of slavery and the future of a divided nation.

In 1960, this proud legacy entered the TV age with the Nixon/KENNEDY debates which set the stage for one of the most closely contested elections in our Nation's history and for the past 20 years, Presidential debates have become an autumnal tradition—an opportunity for voters to not only listen to the views of the Presidential candidates, but to come together as a nation and as a people, participating in America's vibrant political discourse.

Debates are so enshrined in our political process that for a significant portion of the American electorate they are the most important source of information for making their decisions on election day.

The events of this Sunday will be no different. If anything, they may be even more significant.

President Clinton and Senator Dole meet in Hartford against the backdrop of great technological and social change in our Nation. What's more, both men come to this debate with very different proposals and divergent beliefs for the future.

On Sunday night, when the American people gather around their televisions, they will witness not simply a competition of candidates, but a contest of ideas.

That contest of ideas will be waged by two men who may be among the most skilled debaters in American politics.

I have heard a great deal of talk in the past few weeks about our former colleague's supposed lack of rhetorical skill. Even the candidate himself has intimated that he lacks the oratorical ability to be on the same stage with President Clinton and that by just showing up in Hartford he would in fact be the victor.

Mr. President, I served in this Chamber for 16 years with Bob Dole. I have great admiration for him as a person and as a public official, and I have even higher admiration for his debating skills. Republicans are certainly not talking about someone I am familiar with when they suggest that Bob Dole lacks the ability to debate an opponent. In my time here as a Member of this body, I have never ceased to be impressed by Bob Dole's debating skills. He is a smart and experienced debater, who understands public policy issues as well, as any Member that I have encountered in public life. What is more, he has been a candidate for national office four times, once for the Vice Presidency and three times for President. He weathered a difficult and trying debate season in the Republican primaries. All told, he has held 13 debates with other candidates for national office.

I should also point out he was the chairman of the Republican National Committee back in 1972. Having held a similar position in my own party these past 2 years, I know how difficult that job can be, because of the numerous times that you must debate your opponents. In fact, one might wonder if it is Bob Dole and not Bill Clinton who has the advantage coming into Sunday's debate given the tremendous experience that our former colleague, who served in Congress for 35 years and for many years as minority and majority leader, has in rhetorical skills.

If anything, the American people should be extremely grateful to witness a debate between two candidates with such evenly matched debating skills and a similar understanding of the issues.

Not for a second do I doubt Senator Dole's ability to debate on a level playing field with President Clinton. If anything, I think his troubles will come more from trying to defend his eco-

nomic policies and his votes against the Brady bill, family leave, and in support of cutting Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment. But that is another story. Certainly all of us look forward to the world tuning into Hartford, CT, on Sunday night to witness the first Presidential debate of the season, and we wish both of our candidates well in that process.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. KERRY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ASHCROFT). The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KERRY. I thank the Chair.

#### RETIREMENT OF SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, as we approach the end of this Congress, I wanted to take a moment to say a few words about one colleague in particular, and I will add to these comments later and say a few words about a number of our other retiring colleagues. I will lead off my tribute to those who retire saying a few words about one of the U.S. Senate's finest members, and that is the senior Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. PELL.

I have had the honor of serving with Senator PELL on the Foreign Relations Committee more than 12 years that I have been here, and I have been impressed by his extraordinary breadth of knowledge about international affairs, but more than that by the special demeanor of this colleague of ours. He is a man who is deeply committed to the development of a bipartisan foreign policy, one which promotes not only America's needs and interests but also Democratic values and humanitarian traditions. He has been both chairman and ranking minority member, and Senator PELL has always been courteous, solicitous of views of other members, determined to work toward a policy that we all could support even when the differences were extremely deep. He never abandoned his gentlemanly manner and often he succeeded in following the dictum that he used to give his staff throughout the years, which was, "The best way is to let the other fellow have your way."

Senator PELL's accomplishments in the areas of foreign policy are many and far-reaching. I will highlight just a couple of them. He was present at the creation of the United Nations, having served on the International Secretariat at the San Francisco conference which drew up the U.N. Charter. His commitment to the United Nations was really symbolized by the fact that he always carried the U.N. Charter in his pocket, though he really did not need to because he could tell anybody what it said.

Senator PELL's belief in the United Nations reflects his long-held belief, part of which came from his exposure in the Foreign Service, both through his father as well as his own service in the Foreign Service, that problems

ought to be resolved through diplomacy and negotiation rather than through the barrel of a gun.

When I came before the Foreign Relations Committee 25 years ago this year to testify against our involvement in Vietnam, he gave me much welcomed support at that time and even then invited me to join him in the Senate. It was my first invitation and probably the best I ever received. I will always appreciate the fact that he was on the dais that day and that he understood and shared our views about the war.

In view of Senator PELL's steadfast opposition to armed conflict as a means of achieving our national interests, it is not surprising that he has always been one of the Senate's foremost arms control advocates. He has been instrumental in negotiating several arms control agreements, including the Environmental Modification Treaty and the Seabed Arms Control Treaty. He was at the forefront of the effort to create the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and in 1994 he authored legislation to strengthen and revitalize that agency to meet the growing challenges in arms control and non-proliferation. He led the fight in the Senate's passage of treaties such as the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Threshold Test Ban Treaty, the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty, and START I and II. He shepherded these treaties successfully through the Senate and today the United States is party to all of them.

Senator PELL's achievements in the realm of foreign affairs are paralleled by numerous accomplishments in the domestic area. He left his mark on the arts, particularly through his sponsorship of legislation to establish the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, on the area of high-speed transportation and on the environment. Besides his many years of work on the law of the sea, he was also the Senate author of the National Seagrass College and Land Act, legislation which brought much needed money not only to the University of Rhode Island but also to universities in other coastal States such as my own. He was the driving force behind the Federal legislation to help crack down on drunk driving.

Thanks to CLAIBORNE PELL, thousands of young Americans today go to college on Pell grants. His love of education and of those seeking to be educated are epitomized by the annual picnic that he holds at his home for all the students from Rhode Island who are here at college, and come rain or shine or votes on the Senate floor, Senator PELL and his wife, Nuala, are always there to greet the students and show them a little bit of the friendly hometown side of Washington. Senator PELL has always had his personal and committee staffs present so that students could learn from them.

Throughout his years in the Senate, Mr. President, CLAIBORNE PELL has

served the people of Rhode Island ably and diligently, and I think all of our colleagues have been deeply impressed by the personal affection that so many Rhode Islanders have shown to Senator PELL. That is not only reciprocity for the affection he has clearly shown for them but it reflects his longstanding tradition of never closing his door to any Rhode Islander who wished to meet with him.

Senator PELL has now decided that the time has come to leave the Senate and undertake new challenges. I for one will miss him, as I know many of my colleagues will. He brought great grace and charm to whatever he did here, and I know that everyone believes we have lost a true gentleman whose accomplishments are in the highest tradition of the Senate.

I yield back whatever time I have.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF SENATOR MARK O. HATFIELD

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have decided to wait until the end of the session to take a few moments to talk about the extraordinary service of our senior Senator, MARK O. HATFIELD, because in a very real sense, it is almost impossible for citizens in our State to imagine that MARK O. HATFIELD is not involved in a public way in service to our State.

His career has been truly extraordinary. I was 2 years old when Senator HATFIELD began his remarkable service to the people of our State. At that time he was a State legislator. He moved quickly through leadership positions in our State—State senator, secretary of state, Governor—and his career has been marked by several qualities that I think have been so important in public service and that he will always be remembered for, not just by the people of our State but by the people of our country.

When Senator HATFIELD ran in his first campaign for the Senate, it was after there had been a great debate among the citizens of our country and the Governors. Senator HATFIELD was the lone voice of dissent in his party with respect to the Vietnam war. When he ran for the Senate, billboards were put up at that time with just one word, and that word was "courage." If there has been anything which has marked Senator HATFIELD's service to the public, it has been courage; not just on issues with respect to peace, but, again and again, Senator HATFIELD was the one who would tell both political parties, both Democrats and Republicans, "You are not going at it the right way. There is a better approach." That is true, whether it was national service or the motor voter program—just a couple of examples of recent vintage where he has bucked the tide in his party—or numerous other instances. It is always possible to see that courage in MARK O. HATFIELD. We know that courage is al-

ways a trait that will be important to the people of our country and to the people of Oregon.

In addition to those special votes and public acts that showed great courage, Senator HATFIELD is also known for his effort to bring civility to politics. Maybe we call it the second "C" in terms of what is important for politics in the next century. Courage is important, but so is civility.

In our State as well as in the Halls of Congress, it is well understood that when there is a serious problem and tempers are short, Senator HATFIELD has been the one who has been able to bring parties together, been able to find common ground and find a solution simply because he refused to lose his temper, refused to yield to the pressures of the moment. I hope others will try to emulate those special qualities of civility that Senator HATFIELD has brought to his service.

There are several substantive areas that I would like to mention because they are important to the people of the Northwest, but I think they are important to our country as well. The first is that, as we seek to balance the budget—and we all understand that, as citizens at home have to balance their budgets, they have made it crystal clear they want the Federal Government to balance its budget—we still have to figure out a way to make a handful of key investments in our future while we still move to balance the budget. That is what Senator HATFIELD's service on the Senate Appropriations Committee has been all about. It is to try to figure out ways to keep the deficit down, to get us to a balanced budget, while at the same time making that small number of key investments in transportation, in education, in communications that really will pay great dividends for our country. The spirit of the West and the history of the West has been that private investment has always followed those well-targeted public investments, and that is what Senator HATFIELD has tried to do in his service on the Appropriations Committee.

Let me also add that he has brought an approach in that service to try to reward imagination and creativity in government. We are especially proud of the pioneering work that we have done in our work on the environment and with our Oregon health plan. This session, Senator HATFIELD led the effort to get our innovative welfare reform proposal approved. I think it is important to stress that, in his service on the Appropriations Committee, what he has always tried to highlight is the importance of rewarding States, private citizens, and communities that are willing, as has been the Oregon tradition, to get out in front, to take a bold approach, to try to break out of the old ways of doing business. I think it is especially important that this Senate follow that approach in the days ahead.

Let me say in concluding, in his departure from the U.S. Senate, MARK O.