

in many matters relating to energy, to all sorts of natural resources, to our parks, and particularly to a balanced Federal budget; the companionship that we had in search of a bipartisan solution to those questions and of the balanced budget during the course of the last year or two. We would be closer in any event.

But, Madam President, I want to put on the Record one unique set of circumstances that binds the two of us together in a way that illustrates in some respects how small this world is.

When I first came to the U.S. Senate in 1981, Senator JOHNSTON had been here for a considerable period of time and was a leading, highly respected, and very, very thoughtful Member of this body.

About 6 months after I was here, I visited at length my mother, who died just a couple of months afterward, at her home in Massachusetts, and was talking to her with great enthusiasm about this new challenge of my life and this new career; describing the friendships I had made, at which point I said, "One of the Democrats, mother, that I like best of all is BENNETT JOHNSTON. You know, he comes from Shreveport, LA, where your sister lived and raised her children, my cousins. I just think that BENNETT JOHNSTON is a really terrific Senator." And my mother smiled at me, and responded, and said, "Well, Slade, when you go back to the Senate, you ask Senator JOHNSTON whether he knows that his father proposed to me while we were undergraduates at Louisiana State University."

Well, Madam President, Senator JOHNSTON obviously did not know that his father had proposed unsuccessfully to my mother before he met and married the Senator's mother. But that brought us close enough together that he and I have called one another cousin ever since.

Madam President, of all of the people whom I will miss in this body at the end of this Congress, I want to say that I will very, very much miss my cousin, BENNETT JOHNSTON of Louisiana.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BILL COHEN

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute and bid a reluctant farewell to an outstanding leader, friend, colleague, and mentor—and an individual who has been a tremendous credit to this institution and to his home State—the senior Senator from Maine, BILL COHEN.

The U.S. Senate is often referred to as the greatest deliberative body on earth, a reflection on the stature of its most outstanding individuals throughout our history. These leaders have all faced different challenges in different ages, but share the traits that bind men and women to greatness: courage, integrity, and a thoughtful approach to the issues of the day. They are people for whom public service is a calling, not a career; and a solemn trust not ever to be broken.

Senator BILL COHEN is one of these people.

BILL COHEN grew up in Bangor, ME, and would forever be instilled with the solid, common-sense, honest characteristics that are the hallmark of any good Mainer. From humble but hard-working roots, BILL COHEN would learn the values that have made him a great legislator, and a great leader.

Mainers are a proud and independent people, who believe in thinking for themselves but also in helping each other. They understand that there are no free rides—no endless summers. For every action there is a consequence, and with every right comes a responsibility. People are expected to make the most of the opportunities they have, but also to make certain those opportunities exist for others. They insist that a person keep their promises and be true to their word. And they believe the ultimate measure of any man or woman is how close they remain to their principles precisely when it is most difficult to do so.

It is against this backdrop that BILL COHEN started his political life, and he has carried these ideals with him throughout his tenure in the public arena. He entered politics knowing that he would have to make difficult decisions and willing to make them—but not knowing what or when. As it turned out, his moment would come very quickly.

It became clear early on that BILL COHEN would follow in the tradition of great Maine leaders like Margaret Chase Smith and Edmund Muskie. Indeed, from his earliest days in Congress, Representative COHEN distinguished himself as an island of reason in a stormy sea of scandal. While America was suffering a crisis of confidence, BILL COHEN charted a course straight through the heart of the storm as a member of the House Judiciary Committee considering Articles of Impeachment against a President. Although just a freshman in the House, BILL was already a man of conscience and courage—someone who was willing to make the tough calls and risk his political future for the sake of truth and America's honor.

One of our distinguished colleagues, Senator ROBERT BYRD, once said "What we really need is a constitutional amendment that says, 'There shall be some spine in our national leaders' ". I think Senator BYRD might agree that if we had more BILL COHEN's, we might not need such a measure.

Maine and America have come to know that they can count on BILL COHEN to approach issues with thoughtfulness and reason, and I think that Senators on both sides of the aisle have a tremendous respect for his intellect and integrity.

I think that is what Americans want in their leaders. BILL COHEN not only listens to his constituents, but has the capacity to put the day's problems and events into historical perspective. He has the intellect, the integrity, and the strength to know the right thing to do—and the right way to do it.

BILL COHEN does not rise and fall with the political tide, but at the same time he is very much aware of the issues and concerns swirling across America as well as the world. In much the spirit of lighthouse-keepers of Maine's past, BILL COHEN has always stood strong in the face of the often turbulent seas of politics, ever watchful and every ready to guide us in the right direction.

He has been a leader who believes it is his solemn responsibility not simply to echo public sentiment, but to deliberate upon the issues of the day and to add his own voice to the debate.

In fact, in 1992 he admonished that "Those of us in Congress must be willing to tell the American people what they need to know, not just what they want to hear." Otherwise, as he said just Friday in his eloquent farewell speech, "You don't need me; you just need a computer. * * *

It is that kind of powerful eloquence that has been such a persuasive voice for reason in this body. As we well know, Mr. President, BILL COHEN knows just the right thing to say for almost any occasion, and certainly has a gift for the language. Of course, it's not unusual people in our line of work to sprinkle their speeches with pithy little quotes from some famous writer. But let's be honest—most of these are usually stumbled upon by some clever speech writer leafing through "Bartlett's Famous Quotations." I mean, when was the last time you were actually gazing wistfully out the window, thinking, "You know, right now I'm reminded of that line in 'The Iliad' * * *."

Except for BILL. He really is sitting there, thinking about the cost of some arcane weapons system relative to gross national product and how it all reminds him of that line in "The Iliad."

How many of us use timeless poetry and literature to inform our views? Even more remarkably, how many of us use our own poetry and writings?

That is why those of us in this Chamber are well aware that BILL is about more than rollcall votes and unanimous-consent agreements. He is about the thoughtfulness and beauty of poetry; he is about contemplating our place in history; and he is about taking the time to really think about the world around us. He knows that what is really important—what is really lasting and worthy of our attention—is not

something that can be gleaned from a briefing book. It must come from, as Plato might have said, the examined life. For Senator COHEN, the examined life is the only life worth living, and this philosophy is reflected in his public service.

Indeed, one might say that when it comes to values like honesty, integrity, and fairness, BILL COHEN helped write the book.

In the Senate, Senator COHEN has been there to defend the defenseless. He has been a compassionate pragmatist who believes, as I do, that we can balance the budget and still have room for humanity. As Woodrow Wilson once said, "The firm basis of government is justice not pity," and in that spirit BILL COHEN believes that we should help give people a hand up, not a hand out. And with boundless optimism and in the best Republican tradition, he believes in the power and potential of the individual. BILL said it best in a speech he gave on the Senate floor: "Is there anything more un-American than to deny a human being the chance to be the best he or she can be?"

Indeed, there is a common thread that runs through BILL COHEN'S career in government. In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It is upon that fundamental principal that Senator COHEN has based his work, and the yardstick against which he measures our quality of life—and Government—in America.

In a passionate speech he gave in the wake of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, BILL was typically eloquent and straightforward when he said: "If we expect people to be guided by the rule of law and the hand of justice, then justice must be done. * * * We who hold positions of honor and responsibility as lawmakers have an absolute duty to see to it that laws we pass are carried out with fairness and with complete impartiality."

Senator COHEN has been a tireless champion for justice, whether for seniors, minorities, women, and even the U.S. Government. In fact, especially the U.S. Government. BILL believes in the system—and he does not take lightly to that system being tarnished by corruption, waste, or special privileges. He was there to champion lobbying reform; he was there to ensure that criminal wrongdoing by public servants would not be tolerated; and he was there to strengthen the code of ethics for all who are entrusted with the public good.

BILL has also long been a respected and expert voice on intelligence and defense issues. As chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and as former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, BILL'S leadership role at a key time in history laid the groundwork for many of the successes we enjoy today—from keeping communism at bay, to helping bring about the end of the cold war.

Throughout it all, the political battles, the tough votes, the late-night

sessions, BILL COHEN never forgot where he came from. Since 1969, when he was first elected to public office as the mayor of Bangor, ME people have put their trust in BILL COHEN. He has never failed that trust. He has never failed to honor us with his service and he has never failed to make us all proud to call him Senator. I have certainly been proud to call him Senator, even senior Senator, but I feel even more privileged to be able to call him my friend.

BILL set the standard in modern Maine politics for all of us to follow. Indeed, if we ever had any hope of being successful, we had to follow it. And his advice and wise guidance over the years has been invaluable to me. I will forever appreciate the kindness he has shown. He has been a colleague, a mentor, and an inspiration, and I will miss him.

Mr. President, as Senator COHEN is about to embark on an exciting and fulfilling new journey, I wish him nothing but the best. But know this: This institution, his State, and this country, will miss him dearly because he has been, as an editorial once said, "as close to the ideal definition of a public servant as one can get."

DEPARTING SENATORS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I also would like to add my sentiments about the number of individuals who are departing the Senate on both sides of the aisle, all of whom have contributed greatly to this country and to their States and brought us great honor, all of whom have reflected the ideals the American people rightfully expect from their elected officials. I know it is going to be a great loss to this institution, to lose the kind of individuals who have represented what, I think, is the best of what is in America, and the best of what their States have represented.

I wish them all well. I am certainly sorry to see them all go. But I want to say they have certainly served their State and their country with honor.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. 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. INHOFE. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business, with a 5-minute limit on speeches.

SYRIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, like most Americans, I have watched the events of the past several days in the

Middle East with great concern. Through a series of miscalculations, the fragile peace process, which so many of us support and were hoping would be successful, seems to have been threatened by renewed violence.

As a strong supporter of Israel, I hope a reopening of the constructive dialog has been achieved in the White House in the past 24 or 36 hours. And I hope as well that both Israel and Palestinian leaders will renew their commitment to peace.

As they attempt to resolve their immediate differences, I urge Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat to act in good faith and with restraint, although I have to say, after having had a lengthy meeting with Mr. Arafat just a few weeks ago on the Gaza, I did not observe much restraint.

So often, dramatic events in one district of the world draw attention from some of the other things that are going on. I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the concern that I have over other things that are taking place in that region of the world. I wish to call to my colleague's attention, current actions being taken by Syria, actions which may prove to be an even greater threat to the security of Israel and the stability of the Middle East.

A very dangerous game is being played by Syrian President Hafez Assad on the Golan Heights. For the past month, Syria has been conducting a series of troop movements along Israel's northern border, which will enable Syria to quickly launch an attack on Israel. Syria has redeployed up to 12,000 troops from in and around Beirut to within striking distance of the Golan Heights. This is the first significant manipulation of military forces since the Madrid Conference convened 5 years ago to initiate the peace process.

Only by standing on the edge of the Golan, which I have done many times, and I am sure the Senator presiding has also, can you get the full impact of the strategic significance of the Golan.

The Syrian troop movements is just the latest in a series of destabilizing actions by Assad. Despite repeated invitations for Prime Minister Netanyahu, Assad has refused to renew peace talks with Israel. Syria still harbors some 10 anti-Israel terrorist organizations in Damascus. Syria also supports the anti-Turkish, anti-Jordanian terrorists, and let's not forget Syria's destabilization of Lebanon with over 40,000 Syrian troops supporting Hezbollah terrorists.

Mr. President, the Syrian troop movements are additionally menacing in light of a serious surprise attack on Israel during the observance of Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement in 1973.

In 1973, Syrian commando units were used to attack Israeli positions on Mt. Hermon during Yom Kippur, the day of fasting prayer and introspection, which was observed in Israel just last Monday. Syrian troop movements could force a dangerous escalation by virtue