

particularly since she has been in the Senate, but even before in conference committees that we had between the House and the Senate.

I enjoyed our affiliation, and I will be looking forward to the future years of excellent leadership by the Senator from California as I view this great body on C-SPAN, and as I watch the activities and follow the daily events.

THE PARKS BILL

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I might also add that I completely support the expressed desire and wish of the Senator from California that we pass a parks bill.

Interestingly enough, one of my campaign commitments is yet uncompleted since 1972. It is sort of hard to admit that it is still outstanding after 24 years. In that bill is the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Park. That is the site of the famous Civil War battle where the road has to be taken out of the park because traffic is basically interfering with the park. This bill has the authorization requiring the completion of that project.

It is my hope that the Senate, before it adjourns, will help me carry out that very important campaign commitment that has been pending now for 24 years.

So I share the Senator's sentiments and thank her for her kind remarks.

A SPECIAL WORD OF APPRECIATION TO THE STAFF

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, as the 104th Congress and my own Senate career draw to a close today, I want to say a special word of appreciation to our terrific floor staff and our support staff for all of their help to the Members and staff of the Armed Services Committee and to me personally during the past 2 years, and, indeed, during my entire Senate career.

I chaired the Armed Services Committee for 8 years and was ranking Democrat on that committee for 2 years before I became the chairman. During the last 2 years, I have been the ranking Democrat on the committee under Senator THURMOND's leadership.

So for 12 years of my Senate career, I have worked constantly with the floor staff. I observed them before that time. In these last 12 years, I have developed a very acute understanding and appreciation for their splendid service.

A great deal of work in the Senate takes place in the Senate committees. We know that. But the culmination of the completion of legislative process occurs right here on the Senate floor; always has, and always will.

Our guests in the gallery and the people who watch television around the country understand—because they watch and hear the procedures—that the legislative procedure on the Senate floor is complicated. It always has been. Maybe we can make it simpler. It always will be complicated because parliamentary rules in a democracy are complicated.

The sequencing of legislation, the filing and adopting of amendments, advising the Presiding Officer and individual Senators of parliamentary procedures, the taking down of every word that is spoken on the Senate floor—as our reporters do so well every day, even in the heat of debate—are all essential ingredients of the legislative process on the Senate floor. This process could not take place without the dedicated work of extraordinarily capable and talented staff members.

Our Democratic floor staff works under the direction of Marty Paone, the Secretary to the Minority. Marty stepped into some pretty big shoes when he took over from his predecessor and long-time valuable Senate staff member, Abby Saffold, but those shoes fit Marty very well today. Marty's thorough knowledge of the details of the legislative process have made him indispensable to the U.S. Senate. Marty has always been available to me and to my staff to provide counsel and assistance whenever we needed that assistance. I especially appreciate Marty's support in ensuring prompt consideration of the thousands of nominations that the Armed Services Committee reports every year.

On the staff of the Democratic leader Senator DASCHLE, John Hilley, who left last year to become the Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; Peter Rouse, Senator DASCHLE's Chief of Staff; Larry Stein and Randy DeValk have worked very effectively with the Armed Services Committee Members and staff on national security issues and legislation.

Mr. President, I cannot say enough about the excellent day-to-day support we have had from Democratic floor staff of Brad Austin, Gary Myrick, Paul Brown, and Kelly Riordan who recently left the Senate staff. These individuals work under the leadership of our highly capable chief Democratic floor assistant, Lula Davis. I believe Lula is in the Chamber now. Lula is not only terrific in her leadership role; she always has time for a friendly word or often a humorous remark to put our heavy burdens in the proper perspective. Lula is even thoughtful enough to point out when the senior Senator from Georgia is wearing a tie that is "off color and out of style". Unfortunately, that sometimes occurs every day of the week. I am grateful for that kind of candid and frank advice from Lula in her leadership role. That probably is a little out of the scope of duty, but nevertheless it is appreciated.

Managing and passing defense authorization bills and other legislation in the Senate becomes more challenging every year. Lula, Brad, Gary, and Paul are terrific individuals, are great staff, and have always been indispensable in assisting us move our committee bills through the Senate.

I also want to thank our excellent Democratic cloakroom staff of Leonard Oursler, Christine Krasow, Paul Cloutier, and Brian Griffin. They must

get asked about 1,000 times a week "When is the next vote? When are we going to get out? What time do we adjourn?" Of course, they do not always know, but they always give you a good answer and their best assessment. They never fail to cheerfully respond to that or any other question even though it may have been answered by them 100 to 1,000 times a day. Their selfless and dedicated service has made all of our jobs easier. Certainly, it has made mine easier during the entire time I have been in the Senate.

I should also note that while not working with them on a day-to-day basis as we do with our own floor staff, the Republican floor staff under the Secretary of the Majority Liz Greene has always worked with us to resolve any problems or issues associated with our committee's work. I must also note that Howard Greene was very helpful to me on many occasions and to the committee when he served as the Secretary of the Majority.

Legislative Clerk Scott Bates and his assistant David Tinsley; Bill Clerk Kathie Alvarez and her assistants Mary Anne Clarkson and Danielle Fling; and Enrolling Clerk Tom Lundregan and his assistant Charlene McDevitt are an indispensable part of the legislative process on the Senate floor.

Mr. President, I frankly do not know how they do it sometimes, but they are able to keep track of all the amendments on major bills and produce a complete Senate bill in a very short time.

Executive Clerk David Marcos and his assistant Michelle Haynes keep track of thousands of nominations that the Armed Services Committee and other committees of the Senate act on each year. We are deeply indebted to these capable people.

I also want to express my appreciation to the Senate Parliamentarian Bob Dove, and members of his office: Alan Frumin, Kevin Kayes, and Sally Goffinet, as well as their predecessors since I served in the Senate. When I came to the Senate, Dr. Floyd Riddick was the Parliamentarian, and he was succeeded by Murray Zweben, both of whom were excellent and took many, many hours of time to help junior Senators, like the Senator from Georgia, when we first arrived in the Senate. We were so desirous and in need of parliamentary advice. All of the Parliamentarian staff have consistently provided objective and timely answers to the many questions I have had over the years. I think that is true of other Senators and certainly true of our staffs as they have sought advice day in and day out.

Finally, Mr. President, I thank all of the official reporters of debate that takes place in the Chamber under the direction of Chief Reporter Ron Kavulick and all of the staff members who have the awesome responsibility of producing the verbatim transcript of the Senate's proceedings. Journal Clerks Bill Lackey, Mark Lacovara,

and Patrick Keating, and Daily Digest Editor Thom Pellikaan and his assistants Linda Sebold and Kim Longworth also play a key role in making the record of all of the activities of the Senate available to the public.

I am certain that I have left someone out in this listing of indispensable people, but certainly I intend to include all of the staff in my praise. The words that are spoken on the Senate floor and the action that the Senate takes will be preserved for history long after we are gone, thanks to these talented individuals who work miracles under extraordinary deadlines every day.

In summary, Mr. President, my final words in this Chamber are simply a thank you—a thank you to all the staff members who support the day-to-day activities on this Senate floor, for their dedicated service to the Senate and to our Nation. They, indeed, make this Republic work. They make the democratic system work. Everyone who follows the work of this great body should understand that the Senate could not function without the tremendous effort and professionalism these staff members provide.

I close by thanking my own personal staff that arrived with me in 1972, and those that depart with me in 1996, as well as those who will remain and serve in other offices and those who have left during the interim. I have had a remarkable personal staff. I have had a remarkable Armed Services Committee staff. I thank the staff members of the Armed Services Committee on the Democratic side and also on the Republican side who have been so faithful to their duties.

I have also had a remarkable staff on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations all of these years. I inherited that subcommittee and became acting chairman under the guidance of Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson, one of our all-time great Senators. I have been associated with the subcommittee since about 1976, either as the vice chairman, acting chairman, chairman, or ranking Democrat on the committee under Senator ROTH.

Mr. President, it has been a real pleasure working with all of these staff members, and I wish all of them continued success in the future.

Finally, Mr. President, my colleagues in the Senate, I will not name each of you as there are so many Senators who I have been privileged to have been associated—like my good friend, Senator WARNER, is in the Chamber and others. I have served with a number of giants in the annals of Senate history.

I was in a seminar about 2 weekends ago. Some of the most distinguished people in the country were gathered together, famous authors who had written books, playwrights, people who succeeded fabulously in business, chief executive officers in corporations, famous sports figures, including Ray Floyd and Jack Nicklaus, great golfers. I looked around the room, and I was, of course, winding down my career. I

asked myself the question, "Would you swap the last 24 years with any of these people, some of whom are fabulously wealthy, and most of whom are very famous?" My answer was, "No, I would not swap the last 24 years of service in the Senate with the service that any other person in this country or, indeed, in the world has rendered."

My service in the Senate and my service to the people of Georgia has been a very special privilege and certainly the highest honor of my life.

I thank the Chair, and I thank my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

ON LEAVING THE U.S. SENATE

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, this will be my final speech as I conclude 18 years in the U.S. Senate. Measured in length, it may be my best in the opinion of many of my valued colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

What will I miss? Not the Washington DC morning traffic, and driving the obstacle courses. My Ford Taurus will get a reprieve from this pot hole capital of the world. My pocketbook will be spared from the \$35 a shot in used hubcap replacement, experienced 10 times in only the last 2 years. With any luck, the Whitehurst freeway and its tributaries will be fully operable for 90 consecutive days sometime in the 21st century.

I leave this place with the confidence that we will continue to build our bridges to the future of America on the firm footings of national security policy. I have labored on the Armed Services Committee for the past 18 years. We won the cold war, after spending a lot of money, without firing a shot. I suggest that that is the best way to win wars. As the only true superpower of the world, we have the dual responsibility of providing for a strong national defense and, just as important, using our statute to lead and promote peace and understanding, including ratification and implementation of international agreements. To that end, a keen disappointment has been the failure this year to ratify in a timely fashion the chemical weapons convention.

A bright spot has been the signing at the United Nations 10 days or so ago of the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. This treaty is one that this Senator has been very much involved with. When I was in New York for that signing event, it was inspiring as a giant leap for mankind's survival. An editorial from the Omaha World-Herald dated September 5, 1996, makes the case very well and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
(See Exhibit 1.)

Mr. EXON. In my retirement I will surely miss my Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle. However, my

loss of personal associations goes even further than that. I thank my personal staff here in Washington and in my Nebraska offices, many of whom have been with me for all those 18 years and indeed a few who were with me back when I was Governor of Nebraska.

The staff of the Budget, Armed Services, and Commerce Committees all were more of personal relationships and coworkers than just staff. The same is true of the Cloakroom personnel who have been so helpful and considerate over the years.

It has been the opportunity of a lifetime to serve in the U.S. Senate which is a collection of talented and dedicated individuals. I thank and appreciate all of you and I thank the people of the great State of Nebraska for making it possible for me to serve here. God bless and good luck.

Thank you, all. All of you have been great, and I shall always be indebted to you for your understanding and for your help.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and, for the final time, I yield the floor.

[EXHIBIT 1]

[From the Omaha World Herald, Sept. 25, 1996]

A STEP TOWARD A SAFER WORLD

Leaders of more than 60 nations have given the world a fitting symbol of peace and hope to mark the approach of a new century.

On Tuesday, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, they signed a treaty agreeing not to set off nuclear explosions as a means of testing weapons. The signers included the main nuclear powers—the United States, Russia, France, the United Kingdom and China. Also signing were nations, such as Israel, that either have a covert nuclear program or the resources to start a nuclear weapons program if they wanted to.

President Clinton signed for the United States. He wrote his name with a pen used by President John Kennedy to sign a limited nuclear test ban treaty in 1963. The gesture in honor of Kennedy was appropriate. Kennedy's 1963 pact eliminated most open-air nuclear tests, as well as tests underwater and in space. Since then, most nuclear testing has been conducted underground. The agreement signed Tuesday adds underground tests to the ban, eliminating testing by explosion. It was hailed as a major step toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Certainly it would be premature to assert that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is likely, or even practical. India, a potential nuclear power, refused to sign, which is troubling. North Korea and Libya voted against the treaty in the United Nations, an illustration of the danger that remains when law-abiding nations disarm.

Caution is essential, as even a leading proponent of nuclear disarmament has written. Robert S. McNamara, who was Kennedy's defense secretary, wrote last year that he believes in total disarmament "insofar as is practical." With that language, he said, he meant to call attention to "the necessity of maintaining protection against the covert acquisition of nuclear weapons by terrorists or nations violating the nuclear disarmament agreements."

But it's a good time to act. The end of the Cold War and the collapse of communism have brought about a climate in which significant reductions in force can be realistically considered. Rising affluence tends to act as a brake on warlike behavior.