

and Patrick Keating, and Daily Digest Editor Thom Pellikaan and his assistants Linda Sebold and Kim Longsworth 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.

The spread of democracy has reduced tensions. High-speed communications make it harder for dictators to maintain the regimented societies that start wars against their neighbors.

Kennedy took a risk in 1963 when he limited the ability of the United States to test nuclear weapons at the height of the Cold War. The result was one of his greatest accomplishments. It demonstrated that good-faith negotiations could make the world safer and more secure. A treaty can't convert an evil heart into a good one. But it can reduce misunderstandings that sometimes lead to war.

Kennedy's treaty also laid a foundation of understanding on which further agreements could be negotiated. In 1974, the nuclear powers outlawed the testing of the largest nuclear weapons. In the 1980s, the inventory of U.S. and Soviet warheads and delivery systems was cut back in a series of arms-reduction pacts. In the 1990s, the drawdown of warheads continued and the nuclear nonproliferation pact was extended.

Yes, the practicality of eliminating nuclear weapons may continue to be debated. But it shouldn't be abandoned as a goal. Dramatic progress has been made in the past three decades toward making the world less warlike. More progress can reasonably be assumed, even if it occasionally means taking a calculated risk.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SAM NUNN

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, over the course of the more than 40 years I have spent in the U.S. Senate, I have had the good fortune to serve with a number of people who have gone from being my colleagues to being my friends. Today, I rise to pay tribute to one such individual, SAM NUNN, who I am sad to note is ending his career in this body at the conclusion of the 104th Congress.

It is perhaps only natural that SAM would come to be one of my closest friends in the Senate, as we have much in common. To begin with, we represent neighboring States, and almost immediately after SAM arrived in the Senate, we began working together on a number of issues that were, and are, of concern and importance to our constituents. From 1972 to almost literally this day, SAM and I have cooperated on any number of matters, such as the Savannah River Site or Fort Gordon, that affect both our States. It would probably be safe to say that for many residents of South Carolina, SAM NUNN is like a third Senator to them. Additionally, I served with his great-uncle Carl Vinson, as well as with SAM's predecessor, Richard Russell, both of whom were true legends of the U.S. Senate, as well as great Georgians. Finally, we are both veterans, SAM served ably in the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve, where he helped to protect our shores and maritime interests and undoubtedly learned the importance of a modern, well trained, and well equipped military.

Without question, I think the bond between SAM and I grew strongest during the years we spent together on the Senate Armed Services Committee, where we worked together to provide

for the defense of the Nation. In the 24 years he served on that Committee, SAM went from a freshman member to one of the Nation's most knowledgeable and respected experts on defense matters. In the process, he became the Committee's Chairman and Ranking Member, and played an important and influential role in the shaping of American defense policy during the cold War, and post-cold war eras. I have known no small number of committee chairmen in my time, and I certainly rank SAM NUNN as one of the most able and dedicated men to hold a position of such importance and responsibility.

Mr. President, SAM NUNN is known by the media, the public, and by his colleagues in Congress as a serious-minded individual, who approaches matters before him critically and carefully. Undoubtedly, his training as a lawyer and his service as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, helped prepare him for his duties in the U.S. Senate. During his time in this Body, SAM NUNN has represented the people of his State thoroughly and effectively, and he helped to turn the American military into the finest fighting force that history has known. I know that come January, I will miss SAM both as a colleague and friend, but I also know that I am glad he has spent the last 24 years in the Senate, and I am certain that he will continue to work to influence public policy and to ensure that the United States remains the strongest Nation in the world.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BILL BRADLEY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, perhaps one of the greatest characteristics of our form of government is that it encourages literally anybody and everybody to seek elected office. As a result, we have avoided the creation of an elite ruling class, and the men and women who represent us in public office are individuals of diverse, interesting, and unique backgrounds. Just look to the 100 members of this Body and you will find a richly varied collection of experience and professions among our colleagues, and Senator BILL BRADLEY has perhaps the most unique background of our colleagues.

Though not a native son of the Garden State, BILL BRADLEY has been a part of New Jersey and the Northeast since his days as a history student at Princeton University. Clearly his time on that campus helped to influence how he would spend his years as an adult. A star member of the Tigers basketball team, BILL would serve as the Captain of the 1964 Olympic basketball team and eventually go on to play professional basketball for the New York Knicks for 10 years. BILL's excellence was not limited to under the baskets, his performance as a student earned him a coveted Rhodes Scholarship to the prestigious Oxford University where he received a master's degree.

For the past 18 years, BILL BRADLEY has ably represented the people of New

Jersey in this Body. During his career as a Senator, BILL has brought many of the traits he learned on the basketball courts, and in the halls of two of the world's greatest learning institutions, to this Chamber. Without question, he is a careful student of the issues that come before the Senate, and he is always a thoughtful contributor to our debates. In particular, he is a forceful and passionate advocate for matters that are particularly close to his heart, which include economic development, the environment, education, fighting crime, and promoting racial harmony and equality.

Mr. President, despite his popularity, Senator BRADLEY has decided not to seek a fourth term in the U.S. Senate. While we will miss his participation in the National debate, I am certain that he will continue to seek ways in which to serve New Jersey and the United States. I join my friends and colleagues in wishing him well in whatever he chooses to pursue.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, there are certain men and women who serve in the U.S. Senate who by their accomplishments or dedication to their constituents, have become stalwarts of this institution. Senator CLAIBORNE PELL of Rhode Island is one such man.

For the past 36 years, CLAIBORNE PELL has served capably and selflessly in this body, working hard to represent the interests and concerns of his constituents. In the process, he has championed a number of issues and measures that have become a regular and important part of life in America for many of our citizens. Among the accomplishments our colleague is most proud of are the establishment of PELL Grants, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Perhaps more than anything else, though, Senator PELL will be remembered for his commitment to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Given CLAIBORNE'S rich background in international affairs, it is not surprising that he should end up as one of this Body's and Nation's leading experts on foreign policy. Following his service as an officer in the Coast Guard during World War II, CLAIBORNE became a member of the Foreign Service, representing American interests in Czechoslovakia and Italy. Undoubtedly this extensive background was most beneficial to Senator PELL as he carried out his duties on the Committee on Foreign Relations, especially when he became its chairman.

A small State such as Rhode Island builds power and prestige through seniority, and during his almost four decades in the Senate CLAIBORNE PELL has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents. Without question, the "Ocean State" has benefitted greatly