

surprise. They had never encountered someone like Gust Larson before.

I requested that the ICC send an administrative law judge to hold a formal field hearing in South Dakota. At the ICC hearing in Philip in September of 1983, Gust Larson and others emphasized to ICC Administrative Law Judge Edward McGrail the importance of preserving this important rail line. Much to the surprise of the naysayers and the C&NW, Judge McGrail issued a ruling against the railroad's abandonment request.

As expected, the C&NW appealed Judge McGrail's decision to the ICC. After intensive efforts, we convinced the Commission to let stand the judge's decision. Although Gust and the rest of us were very pleased by the Commission's action, we knew the battle was not over. We knew the C&NW could come back and file a new abandonment request, which would mean the battle would start all over again.

If the C&NW truly was not interested in operating the line, it could refuse to perform much-needed maintenance work on the line. This would lead to a gradual deterioration of the line's condition and ultimately a degradation of service. The only real solution was to find someone interested in operating the rail line. This obviously was no easy task.

We made a full-court press to identify potential buyers. After countless meetings and phone calls, we were able to convince a group of investors who were willing to take their chances on the future of this line. The Dakota, Minnesota, and Eastern Railroad [DM&E] was formed and an agreement was worked out with the C&NW to purchase the C&NW east-west rail line across the entire state of South Dakota and into Minnesota. Since its inception, the D&ME has invested millions of dollars in maintenance and track repair and has demonstrated its commitment to improving rail service for South Dakota shippers.

Today, many people may not realize how close western South Dakota came to losing its rail service to the east. Had Gust not stepped up to the plate to lead the local shippers group, who knows what might have happened?

Gust Larson is the pride of South Dakota. His effort to save the rail line is reminiscent of the legendary stories of tough, rugged fighters who turned a vast prairie into a state of enormous promise and opportunity. Generations from now, Gust Larson's story also will be legendary. He has made a lasting contribution to his community, his State and his country. It was one of the great privileges of my life to work with Gust. It is an honor to know Gust Larson. It is an even greater honor to call him my friend. I salute him. Thanks to the help of Gust Larson, the rumble of trains can still be felt and heard across western South Dakota.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, when the 105th Congress meets for the first time early next year, this Chamber will have many new faces. This is partly because 13 of us, including myself, will leave this body to pursue other goals and ambitions. I rise today to pay a special tribute to those of my colleagues who will retire from the U.S. Senate at the end of this term.

Mr. President, it has been my pleasure to work with my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Senator BILL BRADLEY, since 1978. We arrived together, and together we depart.

Senator BRADLEY's respect for the opinions of his colleagues and thoughtful demeanor have made him one of the true gentlemen of the Senate. I have enjoyed working with him on the Committee on Finance and the Special Committee on Aging. He has been a leader on tax reform, environmental protection, and violence prevention.

Senator BRADLEY established himself as a progressive leader in tax reform by proposing the Fair Tax Act in 1982. That later became the Tax Reform Act of 1986. This act closed most of the loopholes that had created unfair and unbalanced tax burdens on the people of the United States. This legislation also reduced Federal taxes on many low-income Americans.

BILL has taken a personal interest in the protection of the environment over the years. He passed legislation to protect the shores of not only New Jersey but of the entire country through his support of the Shore Protection Act of 1996 and has fought to protect millions of acres of virgin land from mining and development.

His determination to create jobs and to expand the police force in those areas have made Senator BRADLEY a leader in finding solutions to the violence that has become an everyday part of life in many communities.

The Senate is losing a great Member in Senator BILL BRADLEY. I wish him and his family the best in the future.

I also want to pay tribute today to Senator HANK BROWN. I have had the honor of serving with the Senator from Colorado on the Government Affairs Committee. In addition, he has been a leader in the fight for a balanced budget.

While he chose to serve only one term in the Senate, HANK had spent 10 years in the House of Representatives. I served in the House and know how difficult the schedule can be, splitting time between Washington and my home district, leaving little time to see family and friends. Yet, while a Member of Congress, he earned a masters of law degree from George Washington University. Hank is always looking for new things to learn and new ways to grow as an individual. I am sure that, after he moves back home, Hank will find many new experiences from which to learn whatever he chooses to do. He has served the people of Colorado well and will be missed.

Senator BILL COHEN and I came to the Senate in 1978 and I have greatly enjoyed working with him over the years. In addition to being an effective Senator and a true champion for his State of Maine, Senator COHEN also found the time to author eight books.

I have served with BILL COHEN on the Governmental Affairs Committee and he has been a reliable ally in the struggle to reform our government's procurement practices. Too many people think that our work is done here in the Congress when we pass appropriations bills. Senator COHEN is among a small group of Senators who realizes that the oversight process is just as important as approving the money.

Mr. President, the Senate will certainly miss the insights and energy of Senator BILL COHEN.

Mr. President, the senior Senator from Nebraska, JAMES EXON, is another of my colleagues who has decided not to seek another term in the U.S. Senate. I know that Senator EXON's retirement will cast a shadow over the great State of Nebraska and this body.

Senator EXON's friendship has been extremely important to me during my time as a member of the Senate. I will miss him as we continue with the next phase of our lives. We have been friends for 20 years, dating back to the days when we served our respective States as Governor. JAMES EXON was one of a group of Senators who dropped by a gathering of folks from Arkansas last week. I was honored that he took the time out of his schedule to attend the gathering.

I appreciated Senator EXON's help on many pieces of legislation, including his strong support for my work to keep pharmaceutical drug prices down. He was also an original cosponsor of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, and worked with me to make the Internal Revenue Service more accountable for its actions. I am grateful for his help and support throughout the years.

Mr. President, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside Senator EXON here in this great body. We came to the Senate as dear friends, and I hope to continue the friendship in the future. Barbara and I have enjoyed our time spent with JAMES and Pat Exon, and we wish them the best in the future.

Mr. President, one of this country's true statesmen, Senator MARK HATFIELD of Oregon, has been a Member of this body since 1966. I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to serve with this great man.

Senator HATFIELD's dedication to his State and Nation can be seen by his mere length of service. For the past 30 years, MARK HATFIELD has worked hard to improve living conditions for the people of Oregon and the United States. Senator HATFIELD has always been an ardent proponent of peace as he has continually worked to end armed conflict. It was Senator HATFIELD who offered an amendment with then Senator McGovern to end the Vietnam War.

Senator HATFIELD is also a man of great conscience. MARK has deep-seated beliefs and he stands by those beliefs regardless of the consequences. Senator HATFIELD has always looked to both parties for help in enacting important legislation. It is for this reason that MARK HATFIELD is one of the most respected and influential Members of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, Oregon is lucky to have a public servant who is as dedicated as MARK HATFIELD. Barbara and I wish MARK and Antoinette all the best and on behalf of my colleagues, I want to thank my friend MARK HATFIELD for all he has done for this institution and this Nation.

Mr. President, the senior Senator from Alabama, HOWELL HEFLIN—known to many as the Judge—and I came to the Senate together in 1978. I have had the honor of serving the last 18 years with this dedicated public servant.

HOWELL HEFLIN embodies the spirit of the U.S. Senate. Senator HEFLIN is a true gentleman and statesman. Therefore, it is not ironic that he is one of the most popular Members of the U.S. Senate and one of the most beloved public figures ever in the State of Alabama. Whenever times get tough, HOWELL is always there to liven up the mood with his great wit and personality. I have had the opportunity to serve on the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee with Senator HEFLIN and I have seen firsthand the tireless effort he has given to improving the cotton, soybean, and peanut programs. Farmers all over this country should thank HOWELL HEFLIN for the contributions he has made to agriculture. Knowing the importance of agriculture in my own State of Arkansas, I am very thankful for the leadership of HOWELL HEFLIN.

Senator HEFLIN has always believed in doing what is right and standing up for what you believe in. He regularly crosses party lines and votes his own personal beliefs. This is refreshing in a time when partisanship seems to take precedence over all other things.

Mr. President, it has truly been an honor for me to work with such a great man as HOWELL HEFLIN, but most importantly, it has been an honor for me to call this man my friend. Barbara and I consider HOWELL and Mike to be among our closest friends and we will miss them greatly. We wish them all the best as they return home to Tusculumbia, AL. And while the U.S. Senate is losing one of its most dedicated members, Alabama is getting back two wonderful citizens in HOWELL and Mike Heflin.

Mr. President, over the last 24 years, the distinguished Senator from Louisiana, BENNETT JOHNSTON, has become one of the most accomplished and dedicated Members to have served in the Senate. As chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for 8 years, and now the ranking member, the Senator's remarkable leadership has led to important legislation in energy policy.

Mr. President, one of the greatest things I will miss about the Senate is the wonderful relationships that Barbara and I have formed over the past 18 years, including the one we have with BENNETT JOHNSTON and his lovely wife, Mary. As we both travel back to our neighboring States in the South, I look forward to continuing this friendship. I wish them all the best in their years ahead. I am truly honored, Mr. President, to have served with such a fine man.

Another fine colleague who arrived with me to the U.S. Senate in 1978 is NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM, the distinguished senior Senator from Kansas. She has done an outstanding job representing Kansas and is truly a dedicated public servant.

My fellow Arkansans and I were honored when Senator KASSEBAUM spoke at the unveiling of the portrait of Hattie Caraway, who represented Arkansas in the U.S. Senate and was the Nation's first woman to be elected to the Senate. Senator KASSEBAUM gave an eloquent speech that demonstrated how far women have come in the U.S. Senate.

It has been an honor to serve with the Senator from Kansas. She has always been willing to cross this center aisle to accomplish what is best for the Nation. When she leaves this body, her humility and dedication will be sorely missed. Indeed, the State of Kansas and her colleagues in the U.S. Senate will be saddened by her departure. Barbara joins me in wishing her all of our best in the future.

Mr. President, one of the finest men to ever serve as U.S. Senator, SAM NUNN of Georgia, is also leaving this body. SAM NUNN's tireless dedication, loyalty, and determination extend not only to his work as Senator, but in his personal life as well. Barbara and I have enjoyed many years of friendship with SAM and Colleen NUNN. I will carry many happy memories of that friendship with me as I return to Arkansas.

Senator SAM NUNN has won not only my admiration and respect, but that of the American people. His efforts on the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and the Small Business Committee are testaments to his desire to maintain peace, hope and prosperity in America. His work has also earned him the distinction of one of the greatest national security and foreign policy experts of our time. All who have worked with SAM NUNN, all who have followed his career, surely recognize the numerous contributions he has made. I will miss him. America will miss this great Senator even more.

When I was first elected to the Senate in 1978, Senator CLAIBORNE PELL had been here for 18 years. I had always assumed he would be here long after I left. When Senator PELL retires this year, he leaves an impressive record of accomplishments in the areas of education, the arts, and foreign policy. He

has been more than a Senator from Rhode Island, but a true statesman for the entire Nation.

Senator PELL was instrumental in instituting the education scholarships for disadvantaged students that bear his name. Untold numbers of students have had the opportunity to go to college through the Pell Grant Program. He has continued to be an advocate for education throughout his career. Senator PELL recognized early on that the education of our children is the best investment this country could make.

Senator PELL has been a true friend and teacher to many of us here in the Senate. I wish him well in his retirement. He has certainly earned it.

Mr. President, last week my colleagues and I gathered in this chamber to pay tribute to our dear friend, the senior Senator from Illinois, PAUL SIMON, by decorating ourselves with a trademark PAUL SIMON bow tie. I have known this distinguished man for many years and have always found him to be a man of the highest regard in his love for this country of ours. He serves as a guide to all of us who serve in public life through his honesty and decency.

Mr. President, PAUL SIMON stands strong for the things he believes in his heart to be good and true. But under no circumstance has he ever turned a deaf ear to any of us wanting to express our views or concerns. As I told this body just last week—as I go to the University of Arkansas next semester to speak to students from various educational backgrounds—if I am ever asked the question by one of those students as to how to pattern their lives for a political future, I will tell them to look at the life of PAUL SIMON, both the political life and the personal life. I say this because PAUL SIMON has humanized politics and the Government for each of us. I thank my friend for his leadership and service to this country and wish him a health and happy future.

Mr. President, my good friend and colleague, Senator ALAN SIMPSON, is also leaving this body at the end of the term. Eighteen years we have served here together, separated only by this center aisle. And it is this very aisle that ALAN SIMPSON has worked his career at building a bridge across—to join both sides in doing what is best for every citizen of this great Nation of ours. Over the past several years, I have had the honor and privilege of working with my friend, not only on this floor, but also on the Finance Committee and the Special Committee on Aging. His hard work and dedication to the people of this country have served as a constant reminder to me and my colleagues of what we have been sent here to do—and that is to serve the people of our home States and all citizens of the United States.

ALAN SIMPSON's humorous and unique approach to business on this floor will be a great loss. Mr. President, ALAN SIMPSON is one of the greatest doers and builders that we have

ever seen in this body, and his presence will be sorely missed. Barbara and I wish my friend and his beautiful wife Ann the very best in the years to come.

Mr. President, I know that all of my friends who are leaving will miss the Senate. But I have even more confidence that those remaining in the Senate, and millions of citizens back home, will miss these wonderful public servants and the energy and wisdom they go generously gave to their country. We are truly a better nation for their contributions.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HANK BROWN

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the senior Senator from Colorado, Senator HANK BROWN, for his 16 years of service in Congress. He has worked for the citizens of Colorado as a Member of the House of Representatives, and was elected president of the 97th Congress Republican freshman class. He also has served his State for one term as a U.S. Senator.

Everyone was surprised when Senator BROWN was the first Republican to announce in late December 1994 that he would not seek reelection in 1996. At that time, Senator BROWN said he had tired of his life inside the beltway and had always thought of his time in Washington as a "period of temporary service." As a result, at the end of this Congress, HANK BROWN will leave the Senate and return to Colorado with his wife, Nan, and their family.

During the last 6 years, I have seen Senator BROWN work diligently on the budget, support environmental and agriculture issues affecting his State of Colorado, and deal with foreign policy matters that affect our Nation as a whole.

HANK BROWN and I have worked side-by-side on the Budget Committee and, while we did not see eye-to-eye all the time, his dedication to Republican spending priorities was tireless and unsurpassed. I know that members of his party will miss his ideas and input when we begin the arduous budget process next year.

Senator BROWN has also work for the people of Colorado on environmental and agriculture issues. He introduced legislation to protect the Cache La Poudre River flood plain and worked diligently to establish national trails along Colorado's western slope. He also came down to the Senate floor to fight for the rights of Colorado ranchers when we debated the controversial topic of grazing fees.

As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, HANK BROWN has supported military aid and training to Eastern European countries. And, I am pleased to say, after studying the ins and outs of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, Senator BROWN joined me and several other Senators by voting against that abomination of a trade agreement. Even today, I regret that the Senate in the 103d Congress saw fit to pass that treaty and that the President supported its passage. But, I'll save that talk for another time.

The long and short of it, Mr. President, is that HANK BROWN will be missed in the Halls of the Capitol. I bid the good Senator, his wife Nan, and their three children farewell as they leave Washington, DC, and wish HANK many happy years of retirement. May it hold new challenges and exciting opportunities.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great men of the Senate. He has served his State of Arkansas with honor as a State Representative, Governor, Member of Congress and finally as a U.S. Senator. Despite this wonderful career, he has not lost touch with the "common man."

I know all my colleagues agree, DAVID PRYOR is truly one of the most well-liked members of this body. Whether defending the Special Committee on Aging and the Nation's elderly or as the primary sponsor of the Tax Payer Bill of Rights, you can count on the Senator from Arkansas tirelessly and doggedly fighting to do what he believes is right. However, no matter how heated the battle, Senator PRYOR always maintains his cool and always treats his fellow Senators with dignity and respect.

Senator PRYOR has accomplished much in his career, but he will always be remembered as the No. 1 advocate for the Nation's elderly. Having served as chairman and ranking member of the Special Committee on Aging, he has led the way in his dedication to protecting and enhancing the lives of our senior citizens.

As a member of the Agriculture Committee, DAVID PRYOR has worked to protect the American farmer, and, as the primary sponsor of the Tax Payer Bill of Rights, he almost singlehandedly focused attention on IRS abuses of the American taxpayer.

There is no doubt the Senate will miss DAVID and his charming wife, Barbara. Barbara has worked diligently to bring outstanding Arkansas art to Washington so all visitors to DAVID's office can enjoy it. The Senate will miss their personal touch and we wish them well.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR WILLIAM COHEN

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, Senator BILL COHEN is one of our colleagues who often comes to mind when considering the mainstream in this body. The presence of these individuals who defy labeling is indeed fortunate in the effort to achieve the compromise so essential in government. I have noted over the years that observers attempting to define these so called liberal Republicans, conservative Democrats, and "moderates", often were describing colleagues like BILL COHEN who simply considered the issue at hand on the merits and decided, in his judgement, in the interest of the great-

er good. Party Line and dogma have never been decisive factors in his decisions, and as a result he was regularly numbered among those who brought about the compromise necessary for progress.

First elected to the House in 1972, BILL COHEN immediately demonstrated his fortitude and independent thinking in dealing with perhaps the most traumatic issue to face the Congress in this century. As a member of the impeachment committee charged with the responsibility of considering the actions of the Nixon Administration, he spoke eloquently of the imperatives of accountability and responsibility in the conduct of public officials. True to the principles evidenced in that courageous beginning, he remains today a spokesman for and example of civility in government and public service.

BILL came to the Senate in 1978 where he quickly established himself as a dedicated and studious member, mastering the intricacies of a diverse set of issues facing our Nation. He was a spokesman for military preparedness long before others in more recent times adopted the popular mantra of "military readiness". His service on the Armed Services Committee has clearly established BILL COHEN not only as a guardian of military preparedness but also as a protector of those who serve in the ranks of our Armed Forces. His exemplary service on the Intelligence Committee was of invaluable benefit to this Nation on issues of grave importance to our National Security. His evenhandedness in his service on the Judiciary Committee and his sensitivity and compassion demonstrated while on the Committee on Aging again stand as testimony to the quality of his service to the people of Maine and this Nation.

Senator BILL COHEN departs our ranks with the respect and admiration of all of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We wish him and Janet the very best in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Senator PAUL SIMON, who is leaving the Halls of Congress after 22 years of distinguished service in both the House and the Senate.

Simply put, PAUL SIMON epitomizes what we think of when we use the term public servant. Since 1954, he has served the people of Illinois as a State Representative, as a State Senator, as Lieutenant Governor, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and as a United States Senator. At every level of government, PAUL has proven to be a model of thoughtfulness and integrity.

As a fellow member of the Senate Budget Committee, PAUL SIMON stands