

these accusatory looks and tones and dredging up pieces of paper, throwing them out with a flourish as if they signify anything. And, Mr. President, we know they have no significance beyond the political race that is presently occurring.

We know that if Bill Clinton were not President of the United States, there would be no thought of going into this kind of thing, wasting these kinds of resources, wasting this much time of the Congress on this issue. It is politics, pure and simple, unvarnished, obvious and clear, and I hope we do not give another nickel to this boon-doggle—not another nickel.

I think my colleagues are proposing giving some more money to pursue it further. I hope they do not give a nickel. Whatever there is here—and there is nothing of legitimate concern for us, because it does not involve the President as President—it does not involve policy that we need to know about, it does not involve charges of wrongdoing against the President and the First Lady. It involves innuendoes that can be useful only as political fodder in a political campaign, and that is all. I hope we do not continue it at all.

I must say, the distinguished Senator from Maryland is a lot closer to this than I am. I trust his judgment. If he would say we have to continue for 2 days or 5 days or whatever, I may reluctantly vote for it. But, Mr. President, I am so sorry that I voted for this resolution in the first place. I do not know what we were thinking when we commissioned this Whitewater boon-doggle investigation. I do not know what we were thinking, and I hope we will terminate it as soon as we can. I wish we would set a precedent that we do not do this kind of thing.

Look, if the other party gains the White House this year—I will not be around here as a Member of the Senate, but I hope our side does not try to do that to their side when they get in office. It is a waste of time, it is a waste of resources, it is a diversion from the purposes of this country and of this Senate and of this Government. We ought to get about the business of running the Government as set forth in the Constitution and let the candidates run the campaigns. Enough is enough, and we have already had too much.

I yield the floor.

Mr. PELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LONGEVITY IN THE SENATE: RECOLLECTIONS OF T.F. GREEN

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, today the number 93 symbolizes a notable milestone in Senate history. It is the 93d day after Senator STROM THURMOND's

93d birthday, which was the same span of days and years reached by my venerable predecessor Senator Theodore Francis Green on the day of his retirement on January 3, 1961. Tomorrow, Senator THURMOND will be 93 years and 94 days old and he will assume Senator Green's mantle as the oldest sitting Senator in history.

I join in extending hearty congratulations to Senator THURMOND on his remarkable durability and I wish him well in years to come. But I do hope we will not lose sight of the extraordinary long and distinguished career of the previous record holder.

The career of Theodore Francis Green will always be an inspiration and a model for productive senior citizenship. He was a classic late bloomer whose political career did not really begin until he was 65 years old. And his most prolific years were in the two and a half decades that followed.

Born in Providence in 1867—a year before Ulysses Grant was elected President—Senator Green was descended from a distinguished line of forebears dating back to the founding of colonial Rhode Island. Five of them served in Congress. He began his own public life when he raised and outfitted his own company in the Spanish-American War.

He served a single term in the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1907, but then endured 25 years of political rejection and disappointment. He ran for Governor three times without success, in 1912, 1928, and 1930—counted out he said by the opposition—and he lost a race for Congress in 1920. And then in 1932, at an age when his contemporaries were contemplating retirement, he was elected Governor of Rhode Island, swept in on the New Deal tide.

Reelected to the governorship in 1934, he engineered on inauguration day the so-called Bloodless Revolution which in a single afternoon ended Republican dominance of the State government and earned him the pejorative of "Kingfish Green" in some circles. The coup was never successfully challenged and he went serenely ahead with his reform agenda.

In 1936, Theodore Francis Green was elected to the U.S. Senate, beginning 24 years of continuous service during which he became a colorful and beloved fixture of Washington life. He was a strong supporter of the New Deal and of social legislation in the post-war era. A dedicated internationalist and a tireless world traveler, he ascended to the chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the age of 89 in 1957.

He was not particularly impressed by his own longevity. "My age is nothing to be proud of," he said. "It's just an interesting incident." But the secret of longevity, he said is moderation. "I don't get worried and don't get excited. It would take more or less of a bomb to upset me."

There was, however, another factor that kept him going and that was his

almost ceaseless thirst for physical activity. It can hardly be coincidental that Theodore Green and STROM THURMOND—both devotees of physical fitness—should be the record holders for Senate seniority.

Green's prowess was legendary and he was sometimes referred to as Tarzan, notwithstanding his modest 150-pound physique. He was a wrestler and a mountain climber and a handball player. He continued high diving until he was 82 when he was finally convinced by doctors and friends to give it up. And he continued to play tennis until he was 87, and they quit only because he could not find time in his busy schedule to play.

But to the end he continued to work out and swim several times a week in the Senate gymnasium or at the YMCA. And most of he walked, daily—except in the worst weather, from his bachelor quarters at the University Club to his office in the Russell Building. Every morning at about 8:35 he would start out on the 2-mile walk, a familiar stooped figure with his pince-nez eye glasses, usually proceeding down through Lafayette Park and up Pennsylvania Avenue. It usually took about 45 minutes.

The daily walk was prompted as much by an aversion to automobiles as it was by a love for exercise. The only car he ever owned was acquired for ceremonial purposes and it spent most of its days on blocks in his Providence garage. He never learned to drive. But he loved trolleys and legend has it that he once showed up, impeccably attired in top hat, white tie and tails, to take a society matron to a concert, traveling by street car.

Like the new holder of the longevity record, Senator Green had great appreciation for women. He often liked to joke that he looked forward to every leap year in hopes that some lovely lady would claim him. Even as he approached 90, he was regarded as one of the better dancers among Washington bachelors. And Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter once said that Theodore Green was "the most charming dinner partner your wife could have."

When Senator Green claimed the longevity title in 1956, Senators Lyndon Johnson and William Knowland, the majority and minority leaders, presented him with a gavel supposedly made from the oldest tree on the Capitol grounds and proclaimed he had outlived all the surrounding flora. Senator Green often spoke of serving till he would be 100, but in 1960, aware of failing eyesight and hearing, he decided to step down. He died 6 years later, in his 99th year, in the house where he had lived all his life in Providence.

As I said at the time of his death, I was then and have always been greatly in his debt. I benefited by his wise advice and counsel and gained by following his example. He truly was my role model. And I shall always appreciate his willingness to serve as chairman of

my campaign committee when I ran in 1960 to succeed him. He was truly a great gentleman and statesman and his legend lies on in affectionate memory of the people of Rhode Island. And, Mr. Speaker, for myself as the longest serving Senator from Rhode Island, I know I share in this memory.

Mr. CHAFEE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, as many of my colleagues are aware, tomorrow our friend and colleague, Senator THURMOND, will become the oldest sitting Senator in the history of the U.S. Senate. This is a remarkable achievement. In so doing, he surpasses the late Theodore Francis Green of Rhode Island who retired in January 1961 to be succeeded by Senator PELL. He retired at the age of 93 years and 93 days.

Senator THURMOND will be 93 years and 94 days old tomorrow, so he will exceed the record of the oldest Senator to serve, which was set by Theodore Francis Green.

I congratulate Senator THURMOND on the great things he has done in his 40-plus years of Senate service, and I congratulate him on achieving this milestone.

On the last day before he breaks this impressive record set by Senator Green, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about Senator Green's exemplary Senate career.

Theodore Francis Green, as Senator PELL has mentioned, came to the Senate in 1937. Previously, he served one term in the Rhode Island State Legislature, the house of representatives, and two terms—we had 2-year terms in those days—as Governor, for a total of 4 years. He was a strong supporter of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs, and he was an advocate of important farm and unemployment relief legislation, and he fought vigorously for increased Federal aid for education.

He did his level best to ensure that Rhode Island got its fair share of Federal funds. And most significant in achieving Federal funds was when he secured President Roosevelt's support for a new naval base in our State constructed at Quonset Point. This was the site of 1 of 12 new Navy bases that were built in the late thirties and early forties. Knowing that the Senators from New York and Massachusetts were just as anxious to land a new base for their home State, Senator Green pressed his successor Governor and the State legislators to cede land to the Federal Government as quickly as possible. Once Congress began its consideration of the matter, Senator Green took the lead in shepherding the necessary authorization and appropriations bills through the Senate.

It was in foreign affairs that Senator Green truly made his mark. He joined the Foreign Relations Committee just as the United States was turning away from its isolationist policies and toward taking its place as the greatest

military power the world had ever seen. In those days, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was where a good deal of the action took place.

Senator Green demonstrated his spirited efforts to implement the lend-lease plan, and his early support for the Selective Service Act was up to the challenge.

While many of his colleagues called for the United States to retreat into isolationism once World War II drew to a close, Senator Green was adamant that the United States should participate in creating a workable, collective security arrangement to avoid future global conflicts. He worked diligently to ensure that American assistance to war-torn nations—the so-called Marshall plan—was implemented, and he worked hard for the establishment of the U.N. Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

As Senator Green's influence in the Foreign Relations Committee increased, he provided key support for the chief foreign policy initiatives of the Truman administration, particularly with regard to Greece and Korea. But his internationalism was not limited to Democratic administrations. On the contrary, Senator Green argued just as firmly against proposals to curb the President's power to conduct foreign policy during the Eisenhower administration. In 1957, as the new chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, he led congressional support for Eisenhower's request to use American troops to combat communism in the Middle East—the so-called Eisenhower doctrine.

Now, much like Senator THURMOND, Senator Green attributed his longevity to two things: A healthy diet and regular exercise. As Senator PELL just mentioned, he walked every morning from the University Club on 16th Street to the Capitol—every day, up until his retirement. Here he was in his nineties, getting up toward 95, 96, and the New York Times heralded him as the Senate's undisputed champion diver, swimmer, and handball player. I am not sure how much competition he had as a diver, but nonetheless he was a champion.

Although Senator Green will no longer hold the distinction to have been the oldest person to have served in this body, he will long be remembered for his accomplishments, his compassion, his loyalty, his honesty, and his good humor.

Upon hearing of Senator Green's intention not to run for reelection, Senator Fulbright said of him, "I had hoped and expected that he would stay until he reached 100 years of age." On the eve of this historic day, I wish the same to the very distinguished Senator from South Carolina. I would hope and expect that he will stay until he reaches the age of 100. Indeed, we have said to Senator THURMOND that we hope we are here when he reaches 100. He said, "If you get exercise and eat right, you will be here."

I look forward to many more years of serving with our distinguished Senator from South Carolina, and I congratulate him on breaking the record set by a Rhode Islander for being the oldest Senator to serve in this body.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3021

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate begins consideration of a bill regarding the temporary suspension of the debt limit, it be considered under the following limitation: the bill be limited to 30 minutes of debate to be equally divided between the two managers; there be only one amendment in order to the bill to be offered by Senator Daschle; that amendment be limited to an additional 30 minutes of debate; and following the expiration or yielding back of all debate time the Senate immediately proceed to a vote on or in relation to the Daschle amendment to be followed by a vote on passage of the debt limit extension, as amended, if amended, with no intervening action or debate.

It is my understanding this has been cleared with the Democratic leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TEMPORARY DEBT LIMIT EXTENSION

Mr. LOTT. Therefore, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3021 just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3021) to guarantee the continuing full investment of Social Security and other Federal funds in obligations of the United States.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Therefore, Mr. President, I announce there will be two votes, then, at approximately 5 minutes before 2 o'clock. We hope to begin on time. I believe the managers of the bill are in the area and are prepared to begin immediately. We will have the votes starting at 5 minutes before 2 o'clock.

While we wait on the managers to come to the floor, I want to say that I think this is a good agreement under the circumstances. This would provide for a short-term debt ceiling extension to March 29. The purpose of this short-