

residents has been the voice of Walt Dibble reading the news over the radio. During this time of the day where so many people are rushing around, Walt Dibble's calm presence served as a soothing influence that made each morning more pleasant. Sadly, the mornings in Connecticut will never be the same, as Mr. Walt Dibble died last week at the age of 65.

A lifelong Connecticut resident, Walt Dibble was loved by all of the people in the state who listened to him. It didn't matter if they worked as a school teacher in Manchester, in the Inventory Control Division of Pratt & Whitney, or as a financial analyst in Hartford, all of Walt Dibble's listeners felt that he was a man whom they could relate to and whom they could trust.

Walt Dibble was an institution in Connecticut radio. For the past 20 years, Mr. Dibble was the voice of WTIC news in Hartford, where he was the News Director and Managing Editor. Hartford was familiar with Walt Dibble even before he came to WTIC, since he had worked for 10 years at Hartford's WDRC radio station. Before coming to Hartford, Walt had been the radio voice of the news in New Haven and Bridgeport.

Throughout his career he was always quick to pick up a microphone and hit the street to cover a breaking news story. And it was in these situations that Walt Dibble flourished. His colleagues always marveled at his ability to deliver extended live coverage of major news events without any script as a safety net. Whether it was covering the collapse of the Hartford Civic Center roof, Hurricane Gloria, or the debate over the state income tax in 1991, he always kept his cool and offered a professional news report that, in many cases, he made up as he went along.

People may have wondered why Walt Dibble always seemed more sincere than other newscasters. The reason probably stems from the fact that Walt Dibble reported the news in his own words that came from his own mind and his own heart.

Walt Dibble loved his profession, and he was a father figure for hundreds of Connecticut broadcasters. He treated the interns at the radio station with the same respect as lifelong colleagues, and he would always encourage them to embark on a career in radio. Mr. Dibble brought a similar approach to the classes he taught at the Connecticut School of Broadcasting and Southern Connecticut State University. He did not need to teach, but he did so because he wanted to pass the torch on to future broadcasters.

In this day and age where most people get their news from television, and more and more radio stations are broadcasting nationally syndicated radio shows, Walt Dibble was a throwback to an era when the radio was the place where people went to get their local news. While it will be difficult for anyone to deliver the news with the

style and grace of Walt Dibble, I only hope that somebody will carry on his tradition of excellence in broadcasting to ensure that Connecticut residents will still be able to receive local news, on local radio stations, from local broadcasters whom they know and trust.

Walt Dibble lived a truly charmed life. He interviewed Presidents of the United States, he saw his son pitch in the World Series, and for more than 40 years he got to go to work to do a job that he loved. But in the end, it is the people of Connecticut who are charmed for having known this great man. ●

CELEBRATING OLDSMOBILE'S CENTENNIAL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to honor Oldsmobile on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. On August 20, 1997, Oldsmobile and its employees will celebrate 100 years of outstanding achievements.

Few things have become so entwined with American culture as the automobile. Since its creation, cars have fascinated us. While the ability to travel has changed drastically in the last 100 years, one tenet has remained: the desire to go further and faster.

Helping fuel this desire is Oldsmobile. This company and its workers have been central to the development of the automobile. From Ransom E. Olds' Curved Dash to today's Intrigue, Oldsmobile continues to innovate and revolutionize the industry. Every individual involved with the organization strives to create a better product. In doing so, the company has given Americans the ability to do more, to see more, and to pursue new experiences. The vision of R.E. Olds has stretched far beyond Lansing. His legacy will be forever remembered.

This celebration is especially personal for me, Mr. President. My father worked on the production line in Lansing for nearly 20 years. Oldsmobile gave my father the chance to provide for his family. During his tenure at Oldsmobile, he demonstrated to me the importance of hard work, dedication, and a pursuit of excellence; values I am proud to emulate.

Again, I extend my most heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion. ●

THE ROMA RESTAURANT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, spring has always been known as a season of rebirth, but, sadly, the Spring of 1997 saw the passing of one of the true culinary landmarks of Washington, D.C. as the Roma Restaurant closed its doors after 77 years.

In the days since the Roma closed, the local newspapers have been filled with articles and letters to the editor paying tribute to the Washington institution. All of the writers had different memories of what made the Roma so special to them. For some it was the

outdoor courtyard with the elaborate garden and grape arbor. For others it was the unique experience of dining amongst stuffed tigers, lions, and other wild game that Roma founder Frank Abbo had killed on safari. For some people it was simply the linguine with clam sauce.

But for everyone who frequented the Roma, there are fond memories of the wonderful people who worked at this restaurant and made it such an enjoyable place to spend an afternoon or an evening.

Patrons of the Roma have described members of the Abbo family, who owned and operated the Roma since it was founded in 1920, as having the biggest hearts in Washington.

While most restaurants are closed for Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Roma was always open, as the Abbos cooked countless turkeys and prepared thousands of meals over the years for unfortunate people who could not afford to buy a warm holiday meal.

The Roma was not just a business. It was more like a club where friends would meet regularly to get together and enjoy some good food and have a good time.

Whenever I dined at the Roma, it felt like going to dinner at a friend's house. In a sense, it was, since the Roma's owner, Bobby Abbo has been a friend of mine for many years. But while I know that my friendship with Bobby will persevere and I will continue to see him, I will surely miss the many friendly faces that I may no longer see now that the Roma has closed. It would be impossible for me to remember all of the people whom I befriended at the Roma. However, I would specifically like to mention Maria Amaya, Hugo Terzi, and John Squitiero and thank them for the kindness that they extended toward me over the years.

In closing, I will miss the gardens, and I will miss the food. But, most important, I will miss the people that made the Roma such a special place. I wish all of them well, and I thank them for all of the wonderful memories they have provided me and so many others. ●

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEVELAND-CLIFFS, INC.

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Mr. THOMAS Moore, CEO of Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. and its outstanding employees on behalf of the company's 150th anniversary. I am honored to join them in celebrating this significant milestone.

For over a century now Cleveland-Cliffs has been a leader in North American mining operations and has served as a model for other companies to emulate. It comes as no surprise that this mining company has survived in a market where competition is fierce and the work extraordinarily difficult. Since 1847 when its founders first began mining iron ore in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the company has relied upon one

basic ingredient for success—fostering good relationships with its employees and local communities.

I am particularly proud of the relationship Cleveland-Cliffs has built with the State of Michigan. The Marquette Iron Range located in the Upper Peninsula has been a tremendous boost to the area's economy and Cleveland-Cliffs has continually demonstrated its community activism by infusing funds into the surrounding area. For example, the company generously provides "Legacy Grants" to local organizations and schools. These charitable acts offer just one example of the many ways in which Cleveland-Cliffs cares for the local community. I applaud their efforts and encourage other companies to follow their exemplary lead.

Mr. President, this sesquicentennial celebration of Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc founding marks a remarkable achievement. I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Moore and the employees of Cleveland-Cliffs on celebrating this auspicious occasion and extend my best wishes for much continued success.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of India, as they prepare to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their nation's independence from Britain. Led by Mahatma Gandhi, whose philosophy and practice of nonviolent civil disobedience was the cornerstone of the people of India's campaign, their long struggle for self-rule came to a triumphant end on August 15, 1947. The victory won by the people of India served as a model for American civil rights leaders, like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and inspired oppressed and disenfranchised people throughout the world. For these and many other reasons, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of Senate Resolution 102, which designates August 15, 1997, as "Indian Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Indian and American Democracy."

The Golden Anniversary of India's independence provides people of Indian descent with an opportunity to celebrate the immeasurable achievements they have made in their homeland and in countries throughout the world. There are vital Indian communities from China to Michigan. In fact, Michigan's Indian-American community is one of the leading ethnic groups in my home State, and its members have made important contributions to the local economy and culture. Many of Michigan's Indian-Americans are professionals who play key roles in sectors like the automotive industry and the field of medicine. Many others are entrepreneurs, and Indian-Americans in Michigan own more than 600 businesses with thousands of employees.

Indian-Americans are justifiably proud of the tremendous strides their

homeland has made in the last 50 years. India is the world's largest democracy, with nearly 1 billion people. With a middle class of approximately 250 million, India is an increasingly important market for American goods. India's economy has been advancing rapidly, with a large stock market and strong high-tech enterprises like aircraft and automobile manufacturing, a computer industry, and its own space program.

Mr. President, the 50th anniversary of India's independence provides an opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Indian-American community. I know my colleagues join me in recognizing the profound contributions Indian-Americans have made to American society, and in offering congratulations to the people of India and their descendants throughout the world who are celebrating this important date in history.●

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF INDIA

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the people of India on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of India's independence.

Independence days, like birthdays, are for celebrating. And we have much to celebrate in United States-India relations. The friendship between the Indian and American people today is stronger and more deeply rooted than ever—deeply rooted because it is based on shared values, and strong because it is shared by more Indians and more Americans than ever before.

The friendship between the United States and India is a friendship that goes back to the beginnings of the American Nation. In fact, the first Asian Indian-American is said to have come to the United States 200 years ago.

It is a friendship that was strengthened when the United States supported Indian independence in 1947. It was strengthened again when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi during the American civil rights movement. And it was strengthened most recently when India embarked on its bold strategy of economic openness.

It is a friendship based on mutual respect and understanding—understanding that the problems we face are mutual problems. In a shrinking world, India's challenges and India's successes are also those of the United States. Because radicalism and terrorism threaten all civilized countries, especially democracies. Because in a world economy, one nation cannot long prosper while its neighbors do not.

India and the United States stand on the threshold of a new era. In just the past few years, India has flung open its doors to the world, and emerged as a rising star on the world scene. We should commit ourselves to continue the progress of recent years.

We have a great advantage in this effort. It is the Indian-American commu-

nity. Indian-Americans are the magnet that will keep India and the United States moving closer together, making our friendship worthy of the world's largest and oldest democracies.

Mr. President, I am a proud cosponsor of a resolution in the Senate designating August 15, 1997 as "Indian Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Indian and American Democracy." This resolution reaffirms the democratic principles on which the United States and India were established, and it requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. And to the people of India, Indian-Americans, and all those who support the ideals of liberty and democracy, I wish you a happy independence day!●

VOTE JUSTIFICATION—AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 1998

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to explain my votes on the fiscal year 1998 appropriations bill. This legislation, which is every bit as important as the Farm bill passed by Congress in 1996, was acted upon and quickly passed last week.

The first amendment considered by the Senate was an effort by Senator DURBIN to deny crop insurance to tobacco growers. This legislation also prohibited payments for tobacco under the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program.

Mr. President, in fiscal year 1996, the federal government spent \$69 million for net losses on tobacco crop insurance. The dangers of this commodity have become abundantly clear in recent years, and while I understand that crop insurance is an invaluable tool for today's farmers, I am troubled by the government support of a product which is responsible for thousands of deaths every year. For that reason, I voted against the motion to table the Durbin amendment. Unfortunately, the amendment was tabled on a 53-47 vote.

After this vote, the Senate turned to consideration of a Helms amendment to increase the tax on ethanol by 3 cents per gallon. The funds raised from this tax were to be set aside to fund an anti-smoking trust fund. Regardless of the ultimate destination, this account was to be funded by a substantial tax increase on fuel. At a time when Americans are already fighting to keep every dollar they earn, I refuse to support another tax increase. Therefore, I supported the motion to table the Helms amendment and it was overwhelmingly defeated by a 76-24 margin.

Shortly after disposing of the Helms amendment, a Harkin amendment to increase funding by \$29 million for enforcement efforts to prevent kids from smoking was debated. The amendment would have fully funded a program