

Indeed, I saw two men who could immerse themselves in the most emotional of issues, those causes that rubbed nerves raw in public debate, and I could see them emerge without enemies. Disagreeing without being disagreeable is a high art form, and these two men created a portrait of what informed public discourse should be.

Buzz and Joel took their jobs and their commitments seriously, but never themselves. A rich store of humor, often self-deprecating, was never far from their lips. Successful people rarely lack charm, and each possessed it in abundance. Whether it was the union leadership hammering out a contract agreement with Buzz at the Bath Iron Works or Joel's colleagues on both sides of the aisle negotiating with him on a bill in the Maine Senate, friends and adversaries alike were drawn to both men because they invariably deserved to be trusted. It may be hackneyed to say their word was their bond. But it was. Always.

A friend of mine who knew both men, but was not an intimate of either, tells a story that is illustrative. When my friend's father died in Florida, the first contribution made in his memory came from Joel Abromson. And when Buzzy's sister, Gayle Corey, died of a virulent form of cancer, Buzz did not wait to receive expressions of condolence; rather, he sent notes to Gayle's friends thanking them for befriending her. One does not easily forget gestures such as these, and there were thousands of others. In the final days and weeks of his life, Buzz called other cancer patients trying to cheer them up.

Fortunately for all of us who benefited from knowing them, many Maine leaders, led by Governor King, participated in exceptionally moving public tributes to these two remarkable individuals while they were still alive to hear the accolades. Having spoken to both of them shortly before they died, I know that they were touched by the outpouring of appreciation for lives well lived.

Losing public treasures like Joel and Buzz when they had so much more to give reminds us anew that life is unfair, as President Kennedy often noted. Fair or not, our state has lost two remarkable citizens and we will not see their like again soon.

To me, they are the standard by which we should measure ourselves. Each of us will honor their memory most appropriately if we try to emulate the service they gave so generously to our State and its people.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United

States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-220. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to permit states to promote long-term care insurance under Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 109

Whereas, As the number of elderly in America continues its swift growth, the issue of long-term care will present an increasing number of problems for our Nation. Demographic trends leave little doubt that, without significant changes, the publicly funded Medicaid program may be stretched beyond its capacity to respond adequately to the needs of our country's poor and elderly; and

Whereas, The challenge of paying for long-term care most often ends up being handled by Medicaid. The Federal-State partnership of Medicaid, which is designed to provide health coverage for the poor, ends up covering the long-term care costs for millions of older Americans who become poor only because their resources are exhausted by the high costs of nursing homes or in-home care. Approximately one of every three Medicaid dollars is spent on long-term care; and

Whereas, While each state determines the eligibility requirements for Medicaid based on specific factors, general eligibility thresholds limit the assets that can be preserved by a Medicaid recipient and spouse; and

Whereas, There is a bill before Congress, H.R. 1041, that seeks to permit states more flexibility to enter into long-term care partnerships under Medicaid in order to promote the use of long-term care insurance. Clearly, any measure to increase insurance in this area would be most helpful for our country; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to permit states to promote long-term care insurance under Medicaid; and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation.

POM-221. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Vermont relative to the desecration of the United States Flag; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

JOINT SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, the flag of the United States is one of the greatest symbols of our nation, and

Whereas, this symbol represents the defining principles of our country, and

Whereas, Americans have placed their lives in harm's way and, in hundreds of thousands of cases, have sacrificed their lives defending these principles, and

Whereas, their willingness to sacrifice their lives in defense of these cherished principles demonstrates one of the purest and most commendable forms of patriotism, and

Whereas, these patriots have focused on the flag as the ultimate symbol for which they and their families have sacrificed, and

Whereas, the flag serves important ceremonial functions at public gatherings, funerals, celebrations of patriotic holidays, parades and countless other gatherings, and

Whereas, respect for the flag and the various protocols attendant thereto (such as proper display, proper folding, saluting, et cetera) serves as an introduction, for many young Americans to the symbol of our nation, and

Whereas, we the American people, accord our flag a unique position of respect, love and admiration for the principles it represents, and recognize the importance of providing dignity and honor to this symbol, and

Whereas, these principles include the protection of individual freedoms enumerated in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution including free speech, free press, peaceable assembly, and petitions for the redress of grievances, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, That the General Assembly expresses its respect and admiration for our United States Flag, and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly expresses its condemnation of all acts of flag desecration, and similar displays of disrespect for the United States Flag, and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to ensure that proper respect and treatment will always be afforded to the United States Flag, and that the Congress explore all avenues available, which may include a constitutional amendment, a statutory change and a public education program, to protect the United States Flag from physical desecration, and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and all members of the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-5876. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Melons Grown in South Texas; Increased Assessment Rate" (Doc. No. FV02-979-1 FR) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5877. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onions Grown in South Texas; Increased Assessment Rate" (Doc. No. FV02-959-01-FR) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5878. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Kiwifruit Grown in California; Relaxation of Pack Requirements" (Doc. No. FV08-920-1 FIR) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5879. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Revision of Reporting Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches" (Doc. No. FV01-916-3 FIR) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5880. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Establishment of Interim Final and Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2001-2002 Marketing Year" (Doc. No. FV-982-1 IFR) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5881. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Reduction in Production Cap for 2002 Diversion Program" (Doc. No. FV02-989-2 IFR) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5882. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Increased Assessment Rate" (Doc. No. FV02-925-01 FR) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5883. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment" (Doc. No. LS-01-05) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5884. A communication from the Administrator, Livestock and Seed—Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Increased in Fees for Voluntary Federal Seed Testing and Certification Services and Establishment of a Fee for Preliminary Test Reports" (Doc. No. LS-01-07) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5885. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Governing the California Prune/Plum (Tree Removal) Diversion Program" (Doc. No. FV01-81-01 FR) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5886. A communication from the Regulatory Contact, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees for Official Inspection and Official Weighing Service" (RIN0580-AA79) received on March 18, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5887. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5888. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition and Technology, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice of a revision to the Fiscal Year 2002 Annual Materials Plan (AMP); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5889. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a Full-Up, System Level (FUSL) Live Fire Test and Evaluation (LFT&E) on all three variants of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5890. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army, Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5891. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense, Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict, received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5892. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) 1999-2000 Accountability Report and the 1999-2000 School Profiles for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5893. A communication from the Secretary of the Air Force, transmitting, the report of an Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) breach; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5894. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Acting Director, received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5895. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and the discontinuation of acting officer for the position of Deputy Director, received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5896. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles to India; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5897. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles to India; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5898. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles to India; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5899. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended: International Organizations; Interim Rule" (22 CFR Part 41) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5900. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or services sold commercially under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5901. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5902. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5903. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VISAS: Documentation of Nonimmigrants and Immigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended: Fingerprinting; Access to Criminal History Records; Conditions for use of criminal history records" (22 CFR Part 40) received on March 15, 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5904. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Documentation of Immigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, As Amended—Immediate Relatives" (22 CFR Part 42) received on March 18, 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5905. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, As Amended—Additional International Organization" (22 CFR Part 41) received on March 18, 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5906. A communication from the Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff, USAID, Bureau for Africa, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Administrator, received on March 18, 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5907. A communication from the Acting Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet and Readiness and Logistics, transmitting, a notice to convert to performance by the private sector the Transportation function at NADEP Cherry Point, NC; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5908. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a change in Notice 2001-64, received on March 13, 2002; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CONRAD, from the Committee on the Budget, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 100. An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2003 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2012.