

The amazing thing about STROM THURMOND's eternal youth is not physical, it is mental. This is a man in his long career who could learn new lessons. This is a man who is not ashamed to say: I am not as ignorant as I used to be. This is a man who could admit to changing his mind.

We are in the only profession where people look down on you if you learn something; that somehow you are inconsistent if you thought one way one day and you acquire more information and you change your mind.

The most amazing thing about STROM THURMOND to me is that through all of his public service, from supreme court justice in South Carolina, from superintendent of schools, to general in the Army on D-Day—we all know the story about one of our colleagues going over with President Reagan and saying to STROM he should have been there at Normandy, and STROM said he was there. And he was there when it counted, on June 6, 1944—is that eternal youth, that ability to learn something new, to have a new perspective and to change that makes STROM THURMOND the most remarkable person with whom I have served.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND TERRORISM INSURANCE

Mr. GRAMM. Finally, seeing I have another colleague come to the floor, I want to say something about two issues that are before us that I am frustrated with, as, I am sure, are many of my colleagues. But in both cases, our problem is the power of special interests as pitted against the public interest. We are trying to do a homeland security bill, and it is not easy because to change the way Government does business is to take on a powerful political constituency, the Government employee labor unions. They are organized and they are active. We are all aware that we are having an election next month. Members are being forced to choose between national security and political security, to choose whether we are putting business as usual and work rules negotiated between the Government and unions above protecting the lives of our citizens.

It is frustrating to me that even when people's lives are on the line, powerful special interests can wield the kind of power that the Government employee labor unions have been able to bring to bear on this issue.

I had always thought when we started this debate that when we were talking about protecting the lives of Americans, we were going to give the President the benefit of the doubt. But at least to this point we have not.

A second issue is terrorism insurance. I was with the President yesterday. Many of our colleagues were there. He was talking about \$16 billion of projects, 300,000 construction hard-hat jobs that we were not creating because people were afraid to build high-profile projects because they cannot

buy terrorism insurance. The President has asked us to move forward on a bill.

In October, the House had already acted on the bill and, on a bipartisan basis, Senator DODD, Senator SARBANES, Senator ENZI, and I worked out a compromise which was agreed to by the Treasury that had a compromise on the issue of: Can you sue somebody who is a victim of terrorism for punitive damages?

The President's view is very strong on the subject; that is, when somebody has been the victim of terrorism, it is like someone coming onto a hospital ship to prey on them by filing lawsuits against them. Lawsuits against terrorists is fine, but for victims of terrorism there shouldn't be punitive damages.

We worked out a compromise on a bipartisan basis. But the plaintiff's bar came out against that compromise, and, as a result, we have never been able to do anything from that point on.

Again, it is the case where there is a powerful special interest that is preventing us from promoting the public interest.

I am hopeful in the remaining days of this session—and I believe unless the end point is changed, today is Wednesday, so tomorrow is Thursday; we are probably not going to do a lot of work on Friday or Monday. Then we are planning to adjourn Thursday, or Friday, or Saturday at the latest—if we are ever going to do something on homeland security and terrorism insurance, we had better get on with it.

The amazing thing is that it is apparently going to be very easy for us to pass a resolution giving the President the power to go to war. I support that because I think American security interests are at stake. We can do that because there is no well-organized, powerful political special interest group that supports Saddam Hussein. But we can't do homeland security and we can't do terrorism insurance because there are organized, effective, powerful special interest groups that oppose what we are trying to do. I hope we can overcome that hurdle. I hope in the process we can pass these two important bills.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. EDWARDS). The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JESSE HELMS AND SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am sorry I could not get the floor earlier. But I assume we are still in morning business, and that I may proceed with reference to a couple of our colleagues who are leaving. I was unavoidably detained in a conference meeting with the House of Representatives on the status of the energy bill.

First, I think it is important as we see our friends depart from this body to talk about what is outstanding in our own minds relative to their contributions. One could go on at great length

relative to the contributions of Senator STROM THURMOND and Senator JESSE HELMS. But one of the things outstanding in my mind is the tours that Senator THURMOND used to give when we had a social event here in the Capitol. Upon the conclusion of the event, he would offer to take at least some of the guests on a night tour of the Capitol, and he would recite instances that occurred 30, 40, 50, and almost 200 years ago relative to the sacred surroundings and the Old Chamber where the Supreme Court originally was here in the Capitol, and reflect humorous stories of who sat where and what their personal traits might be.

Looking back on my 22 years in the Senate, I treasure those moments. My wife Nancy and I often have talked about them. Unfortunately, his health does not allow him to conduct those tours anymore, but for those who were fortunate enough to share a few moments of his humor on those tours, the historical references, his magnificent memory, and the reference to the uniqueness of the Senate, and the outstanding highlights of the various careers of those who have come and gone, it was truly a memorable experience.

Today, we set aside time for Members to comment on Senator HELMS who is also leaving us. Again, it is a matter of individual impressions that Members leave you with.

Without exception, Senator HELMS' comments on this floor back in 1983 stand out in my memory as certainly the most significant, most timely, and most on target references to a frightening situation that occurred. That was the shooting down of the Korean Airlines flight 007, which was shot down by a Soviet Sukhoi 15 fighter jet on September 1, 1983. That flight was on its way from Anchorage, AK, to Seoul, Korea. There were 269 lives lost, including a Congressman, Larry McDonald.

At that time, Senator HELMS and Senator Symms, the former Senator from Idaho, were on another Korean Airlines flight that was in transit in Anchorage the same time as the Korean Airlines flight 007.

I was in the Senate Chamber when Senator HELMS delivered his floor statement on September 15, 1983. There were many who were commenting and making statements, but by far the most moving statement was Senator HELMS'. I am going to take the liberty of quoting a bit of his statement at that time. Let me quote the statement of Senator HELMS as follows:

Mr. HELMS. I was on the Korean airplane that landed in Anchorage for refueling 20 minutes after the ill-fated plane. Both planes were on the ground for more than an hour, meaning that both planes were there together for the better part of an hour. Most of the passengers on both planes went into the terminal.

It so happens that the distinguished Congressman from Georgia, Representative Larry McDonald, did not, or I did not see him. But in the lounge of the terminal I saw one of the most delightful young families

anybody could ever hope to see. A young man and his wife—the young was going to Seoul, as I understand, to head up Eastman Kodak's organization there. They had two little girls, aged 5 and 3.

The mother was sitting reading Bible stories to those two little girls when we entered. The little girl was sitting on her mother's lap and the 5-year-old was sitting on the arm of the chair. And when the mother had finished reading to the children, I went over and introduced myself.

In the conversation, he offered to take the children and read them a story while their mother went to refresh herself. They were on his lap. They were playing games—the same games he played with his own grandchildren. He said:

They were on my lap and we were playing little games that I play with my grandchildren.

If I live to be 1,000, I say to the Senator, I will never forget those two little girls, who had a right to live and love and be loved, but who will never have that right because of this criminal, brutal, premeditated, cowardly act by the Soviet Union.

I will forever remember the giggles and the laughter—they hugged my neck and they kissed me on the cheek. Finally, their plane was called, and my last sight of them as they scampered out the door was their waving "bye-bye" to this fellow and blowing kisses to me.

I tell you that you could have heard a pin drop in this body when he delivered that message. It was a tough message. But he was right on target. Those children had a right to live, a right to be loved, and it was finished—snuffed out in that premeditated act by the Soviet Union by the shooting down of Korean Airlines flight 007.

Senator HELMS is certainly known for calling a spade a spade. But that day I thought he was right on target in calling the atrocity what it was—a cold-blooded murder. I will never forget the comments the Senator made at that time, and they will live with me always.

I admire Senator HELMS, what he stands for, and the contribution he has made to this body.

TRIBUTES TO STROM THURMOND

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Senator STROM THURMOND on his remarkable tenure as a U.S. Senator.

As a history teacher, I taught my students about Senator THURMOND. As a Congressman, I always admired Senator THURMOND's leadership, and his willingness to speak out for his beliefs. As a Senator, it has been an honor to serve with Senator THURMOND.

He is a true patriot, a true civil servant. He has served his country in countless ways, and in every case, he has pursued this service with vigor.

He showed his dedication to the United States by serving in the army during World War II. Senator THURMOND originally signed up for an administrative position, but he eventually went to both the European and Pacific theaters.

He served with the storied 82d Airborne Division and landed in Normandy on D-Day. His combat service earned him eighteen citations, including the Bronze Star for Valor, a Purple Heart, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre. He continued his military career as a Major General of the U.S. Army Reserve. He also acted as National President of the Reserve Officers Association.

It is easy to forget this heroism, because it was so long ago and he has accomplished so much since then. But, for me, as a Veteran, and as someone who lost his father in service to his country, I believe we each owe Senator THURMOND our gratitude for his courage in his military service.

Senator THURMOND was first elected to the Senate 48 years ago. It was then, in 1954, that the people of South Carolina elected Senator THURMOND by a write-in vote, the only time in history that this has ever happened.

However, Senator THURMOND had made his mark well before he was elected to the Senate. He showed his dedication to South Carolina by serving as city and county attorney, State senator, circuit judge, and Governor.

As a former teacher, coach, and school board chairman, I believe there is no more noble public service than teaching. Between heroic military service and a half century of political service, STROM THURMOND managed to set aside time to teach future generations.

He was a teacher in South Carolina. He was also an athletic coach. He later went on to serve as the Superintendent of Education for Edgefield County, SC.

As a U.S. Senator, STROM THURMOND has accomplished numerous achievements. As you all may know, in 1996 Senator THURMOND became the oldest serving Senator in history. A few months later, he became the longest serving Senator in United States history.

In 1998 Senator THURMOND cast his 15,000th vote on the Senate floor. While these milestones are significant, it is what he did with this time that makes these records important.

Senator THURMOND well remembers the great baseball Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig. They used to call him the Iron Horse. He never missed a game. He always gave 100 percent. He was the essence of sportsmanship.

STROM THURMOND is the Iron Horse of the Senate. He is the essence of statesman, of public servant. He has given 100 percent for his entire career, and those of us who are privileged to know him draw energy and inspiration from his example.

I will always remember any time I came in early in the morning to open the Senate. It was always Senator THURMOND presiding. As President pro tempore, he did not have to do that. He could appoint someone else to do it. But, that's just how STROM THURMOND is. It is part of his character.

Of course, I have always admired his dedication to his conservative values.

Throughout his life Senator THURMOND was a Democrat, a Dixiecrat, and a Republican, but most importantly he was always a patriot.

His unflinching devotion to his country manifested itself in his service and chairmanship of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Moreover, his unflagging dedication to justice was represented by another chairmanship, that of the Senate Judiciary Committee. As a Senator who has served with Senator THURMOND on both of these committees, I have had the privilege of seeing a great legislator in action.

As a veteran, I am thankful for all that Senator THURMOND has done, such as serving on the Veterans' Affairs Committee for over 30 years. As a former teacher, I commend his work with the youth of South Carolina when he was an educator. As a Senator, I admire his forthrightness and dedication to his principles. As an American, he makes me proud.

Senator THURMOND, thank you for your many years of devotion to this country and the ideals that make it strong.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, when I first came to the Senate, like many members, I took my two sons onto the floor of the Senate before the session started and found my desk. I asked them if they wanted to sit in my chair. One son chose Barry Goldwater's seat to sit in, and the other son chose STROM THURMOND's seat. Looking back, that is easy for me to understand.

There are so many things you could say about STROM, but there is one thing I can say about STROM THURMOND that I am certain of and that is, someday I will proudly tell my grandchildren that I served in the U.S. Senate with STROM THURMOND. Like those happy band of brothers who fought with King Harry on St. Crispin's Day, I will tell my grandchildren how I fought with a great man, a great leader, to accomplish great deeds.

He has had a profound and lasting impact on our country. But there is something more remarkable. He is eternally young. Not just in being a 100-year-old Senator, but young in the ability to adopt new ideas, to change as circumstances change, and in the process to grow, even during the longest tenure in the Senate in history. I love STROM THURMOND. I admire him, and for my whole life, I will be proud that I was able to call him colleague and friend.

CONFERENCE ON ENERGY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to share with my colleagues an update on the conference on energy.

As we all know, our President has asked for an energy bill. The bill was reported out of the House and the Senate, H.R. 4. We have been in conference for several days, off and on. Today we took up one of the more controversial provisions; that is, the disposition of ANWR.