

leaving an enormous burden to our children and grandchildren.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

CLINTON'S CUBA DECISION IS DOUBLETALK, CHARADE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, early this afternoon President Clinton turned his back on the people of Cuba with an announcement which revealed that he had decided to try to double-talk his way into appearing to be taking a tough stand against Fidel Castro.

But when one examines this charade, Mr. President, Mr. Clinton had in fact delayed the enforcement of the Libertad Act which Congress passed and the President immediately signed into law earlier this year when it would have been politically disastrous for him not to do so.

The Associated Press reported, correctly, that today's decision by the President could help Clinton to buy time knowing that his refusal to impose sanctions on Castro would risk losing Cuban-American votes in Florida and New Jersey, two key States in Mr. Clinton's reelection bid.

So, Mr. President, once again Mr. Clinton has taken a firm stand on both sides of an important issue. While today's announcement contains tough anti-Castro rhetoric, it is all talk and no substance. The truth is, Mr. Clinton has capitulated to Fidel Castro and his foreign business collaborators, who not only condone Castro's cruel dictatorship, but want to help it flourish.

But the President's problem is not going away. The Libertad Act is Clinton-proof. The President could not muster the courage to implement title III today, but the threat of lawsuits still hangs over the necks of Castro's business partners like the blade of a guillotine. Even before today's decision, businesses were fleeing Cuba because of the threat of such lawsuits. This will continue, and the law will not be mitigated by the President's lack of courage.

At a time like this, Mr. President, one is obliged to wonder: Is there no Teddy Roosevelt, no Winston Churchill ready to stand up for freedom? There was none on Pennsylvania Avenue today.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOSEPH PHELPS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, we were deeply saddened recently by the death of one of Alabama's most distinguished jurists, former Judge Joseph Phelps. He had only retired in January 1995 after serving as Montgomery County Circuit Judge for 18 years. During his long tenure as a circuit judge, he earned a reputation for being thorough, fair-minded, and tough, all hallmarks of an outstanding jurist. After retiring from the bench, he still handled an expedited docket. He also spent time at his farm and doing volunteer work.

Judge Phelps was an outstanding leader in Alabama's judicial reform

movement in the 1970's. His leadership in securing support for the passage of the judicial article and its implementing legislation was significant. He played a pivotal role in the educational effort of getting judges and lawyers, court clerks, registrars, and all court-related personnel to understand the new system. His planning, explanation, and leadership brought about a smooth transition from the old antiquated system to the new one. Alabama will always be indebted to him for his many contributions to a vastly improved judicial system.

Judge Phelps was appointed as a special circuit judge in 1976, then elected in his own right later that year. Prior to that, he helped found law awareness programs in Montgomery schools and served as dean of the Jones School of Law from 1968 to 1972. A 1958 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law, Judge Phelps served as an assistant attorney general from 1958 to 1961, as an assistant city attorney from 1969 to 1973, and as acting dean of the State's judicial college from 1978 to 1979.

As one writer said so well of Joe Phelps, "It speaks volumes of this man that even though he was a successful lawyer and a highly respected circuit judge, he will be remembered—and missed—for the great good he did for his community and State. He was one of Montgomery's greatest natural resources." He was active in several organizations, including Strategies to Elevate People, Success by Six, and the YMCA. In 1990, the Alabama State Bar Association bestowed its highest honor on him when it awarded him the Judicial Award of Merit.

Judge Joe Phelps will long be remembered for his love, faith, commitment, and fairness. He will also go down as one of the best circuit judges to ever serve in Alabama. I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, Peggy Black Phelps, and their entire family in the wake of this tremendous loss.

I ask unanimous consent that a Montgomery Advertiser article on Judge Phelps be printed in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Montgomery Advertiser, June 25, 1996]

PHELPS' LOVE, FAITH STRESSED BY SPEAKERS (By Matt Smith)

Retired Circuit Judge Joseph Phelps passed through the doors of Trinity Presbyterian Church for the last time Monday, past an overflow crowd of family, friends and colleagues.

They came to pay last respects to the 61-year-old judge, eulogized as a man who translated his deep faith into community service outside the courtroom. He died Saturday at 61, when his 1991 Oldsmobile ran off Woodley Spur Road and overturned. He had retired less than 18 months before the accident.

"Joe Phelps was an embodiment of love for God and love for his fellow human beings,"

said the Rev. Curt McDaniel, pastor of the Garden District church where Judge Phelps had been a member for 51 years. His body left the church in a simple, pine coffin adorned by flowers from the farm he kept in south Montgomery County, where he hunted and invited friends each Thanksgiving for a holiday breakfast.

"Joe was a community leader, first of all," said Bill Chandler, director of Montgomery's YMCAs. When Mr. Chandler arrived in Montgomery in 1948, the future judge was one of the first to join the Y.

"One of his characteristics was he got other people to become involved in community activities who wouldn't otherwise have been involved in those activities," Mr. Chandler said. "He found a way to get others to give their time, multiplying their effect."

The flag outside the Montgomery County Courthouse flew at half staff Monday. County commissioners canceled their Monday meeting to attend the funeral. Family, friends, courthouse regulars and local dignitaries filled Trinity Presbyterian Church to capacity and then some. Mourners unable to find a seat in Trinity's sanctuary stood in hallways and back rooms, listening to the service via remote speakers.

The Rev. Dr. McDaniel was joined by two other ministers: the Rev. John Ed Mathison of Frazer United Methodist and the Rev. Jay Wolf of First Baptist Church. Both had served with him in numerous volunteer endeavors.

His efforts off the bench included positions on the YMCA's Metro board of directors; to helping found the Success by Six and STEP (Strategies to Elevate People) programs; working with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Leadership Montgomery, the Youth Legislature and the Capital City Boy's Club.

Judge Phelps graduated from the University of Alabama Law School in 1958 and returned to Montgomery, where he had graduated from Sidney Lanier High School. In 1976, after an extensive career in private practice, county voters made him a circuit judge.

He held that post until his third term ended in 1995. In 1990, the Alabama State Bar Association bestowed its highest honor, the Judicial Award of Merit, on him. Even after retirement, he handled an expedited docket for the circuit until a few months ago.

"He gave most defendants an opportunity for light treatment on a first offense," said John Hartley, who worked as a public defender in Judge Phelps' third-floor courtroom for more than three years.

Judge Phelps was buried in Greenwood Cemetery after Monday morning's services. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Black Phelps; and two daughters, Margaret Romanowski of Montgomery and Julia Phelps Lash of Birmingham.

THE CLINTON ECONOMY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to recently released facts on the condition of our economy, and the fate of the American people in that economy.

For too long, Mr. President, we have been subjected to the old canard that tax cuts favor only the rich, while intrusive government programs help the poor. The experience of this administration proves that this is not so. Under the high-tax, high-spending policies of the current administration, the rich have gotten richer while the rest