

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn that my good friend and former colleague, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, has passed away.

He was a man of courage, conviction, commitment, and toughness. He was a labor lawyer and union lobbyist, who grew up in poverty, and went on to become a champion of the rights of American workers. He was a self-made millionaire who became a dedicated adversary of big business.

I was honored to work with him in the Senate for 18 years. He was an unabashed liberal who brought such an intensity to any issue he was promoting, that it was a pleasure simply to watch him as he worked. It was the high level of energy and emotion that he brought to the issues about which he felt most deeply that prompted me to remark at one point, "Some men have succeeded in politics through diplomacy and compromise, [but] Howard Metzenbaum's forte has been his passion."

And he was passionate about liberal causes. During his career in the Senate, he wrote legislation on nutrition-labeling, funding for "orphan drugs" for rare diseases, airline safety, and penalties for violations of child-labor laws.

It was a delight to work with him in the incredibly productive 100th Congress—and he was one of the reasons that that particular Congress was so productive. Some of the legislation that Senator Metzenbaum sponsored during that Congress included plant-closing notification and a massive worker-retaining program.

Mr. President, Senator Metzenbaum's support for liberal causes earned him a variety of labels and descriptions. While the Wall Street Journal branded him "Senator No" for his determination and ability to block legislation that favored special interests, the Dayton Daily News called him "Senator Can Do" for his legislative accomplishments.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer described him as the "watch dog for American consumers." The Gannet News service called him the "millionaire friend of the little guy." The Congressional Quarterly depicted him as the "Democratic Gatekeeper." In his weekly newspaper column, Senator Paul Simon called him "the tiger of the Senate." The head of Handgun Control, Sara Brady, labeled him a "hero" for his leadership in fighting for the Brady bill and other gun-control measures. I was privileged to be able to call Senator Metzenbaum "friend" and "colleague."

American workers and American consumers, as well as members of the Senate, the State of Ohio, and the citizens of our beloved country are all so much better off because he served in this chamber for nearly two decades.

Mr. President, during one of his fights against special interests, the Washington Post editorialized, "Thank God for Metzenbaum." I loved that re-

mark because I, too, wish to "thank God for [Senator] Metzenbaum."

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn of the death, last night, of former Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio. But my grief is leavened by wonderful memories of this extraordinary person and all that he accomplished during his nearly two decades in this body.

There are several essential, bedrock things you quickly learned about Howard Metzenbaum. He was proud, unreconstructed, irrepressible liberal. He was a fighter who never gave in or gave up. And he was utterly intolerant of injustice or discrimination toward any human being.

In many ways, he was a classic child of the Great Depression, raised amidst poverty and anti-Semitic prejudice, and reared on the speeches of his hero, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Howard was a self-made man who said that he was "born knowing how to make money." And he did, indeed, make a fortune in the business world. But, for Howard, money was not an end in itself. It gave him the freedom to devote himself to public service and to the causes that he believed in so passionately.

Howard and I shared a common interest in combating child labor and child slavery around the world. I especially admired his work as a founding member of the RUGMARK Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting child labor in the hand-made carpet industry, especially in countries like India and Pakistan.

He poured all his energy and prestige as a U.S. Senator into getting RUGMARK started, and building it into the successful humanitarian organization that it is today. And on many occasions, he joined with other anti-child-labor activists in picketing outside of drug stores that persisted in selling products made with abusive child labor.

Of course, Howard's fight for social and economic justice extended into many other arenas.

For many years, he worked as a lawyer for labor unions, and he always believed passionately in unions as instruments for lifting people up and fighting for justice. It was Senator Metzenbaum who passed the law requiring 60-day notice before a plant could be closed.

And I dare say that the Senate has never had a more outspoken advocate for the American consumer. In fact, after he retired from the Senate, Howard served as chairman of the Consumer Federation of America. He fought for access to affordable prescription drugs. And, with good reason, he was especially proud of the law he passed requiring nutrition labels on all processed food products.

Food labels—listing calories, fat, salt, and cholesterol content—have changed the way Americans shop, and they have given us an important tool for taking charge of our own health. Howard's work on food product labels

was the inspiration for my own bill, which would require chain restaurants to provide similar information on the nutritional content of regular menu items.

Mr. President, those of us who were privileged to serve in the Senate with Howard Metzenbaum will never forget his sharp wit and equally sharp tongue. He didn't come to the Senate to be Mr. Popularity; he came here to get things done and to change the world for the better.

And that's exactly what Senator Metzenbaum did during his 19 years in this body. He was a tireless, outspoken voice for working families and union members, for the poor, and for anyone who is oppressed, exploited, or discriminated against.

Mr. President, there was one other great passion in Howard Metzenbaum's life, and that was his love for Shirley, his wife and partner for more than five decades. My thoughts and prayers, today, are with Shirley.

She is saying goodbye to her beloved husband. We are saying goodbye to one of the true giants of the Senate in the late 20th century.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1027

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 351, S. 1027; the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. BUNNING. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 70, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 70) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013.

Pending:

Baucus amendment No. 4160, to provide tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses, property tax relief to homeowners, relief to those whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and tax relief to America's troops and veterans.

Graham amendment No. 4170, to protect families, family farms, and small businesses by extending the income tax rate structure, raising the death tax exemption to \$5,000,000 and reducing the maximum death tax rate to no more than 35 percent; to keep education