

MORNING BUSINESS

(During today's session of the Senate, the following morning business was transacted.)

THE MUSIC PERFORMANCE TRUST FUNDS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once said that music is the universal language of mankind. If so, recording industries music performance trust funds enable that language to be heard and enjoyed by all.

Since its creation in 1948 by the Recording Companies of America and the American Federation of Musicians, MPTF has raised over \$500 million, and has sponsored more than a million free instrumental performances throughout the United States and Canada. MPTF can truly be described as the largest single sponsor of live music in the entire world.

Indeed, the effect of MPTF is enormous. It provides young musicians with opportunities to learn from experienced professionals. It permits individuals to hear excellent artistic selections, and to broaden their musical tastes. It functions as an educational tool enabling students to acquire a better appreciation and understanding of music. It serves as an outstanding example of industry and employees working together for a greater future, in which the arts are widely accessible to people in their own communities.

It is often said that few things in life are free. When MPTF was first envisioned, it was designed to be an exception to that rule. Its original goal was to present free musical performances for community education and outreach, with emphasis on reaching the largest possible audiences. For half a century, in reaching for that goal, MPTF has helped to develop, strengthen, and enrich our national culture and heritage, especially the appreciation and enjoyment of live music.

Because of these admirable achievements, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to commend the recording industry and MPTF for their leadership. Through their efforts, music is fulfilling its potential as a magnificent unifying and humanizing experience that can be shared and understood by all.

WILLIAM W. WILKENS, SR.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to reflect on the life of a good friend of mine, and one of our State's leading citizens—William Walter Wilkins, Sr.—who passed away recently.

Born in the South Carolina "Upstate", Mr. Wilkins became one of the most prominent and well liked citizens of the region. A gifted athlete, "WW" was active in a number of sporting activities, including playing 4 years of varsity basketball, before his cum

laude graduation from Furman University. Soon after he earned his law degree from that prestigious institution in 1929, William began to establish a well deserved reputation as a capable and dedicated attorney whose integrity was unimpeachable. Mr. Wilkins was forced to put his law practice aside to serve in the Navy during World War II, but upon his return to the United States, he founded the Wilkins Law Firm and remained its senior partner until his retirement in 1992.

A civic minded individual, Walter was actively involved in many community activities and was recognized as an important regional leader. In addition to being a member of the Greenville County and South Carolina Bar Associations, he belonged to a number of other civic groups and organizations. He was the Past Commander of the James F. Daniel, Jr. American Legion Post; a past Master of the Walden Masonic Lodge; and, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Greenville County American Legion Fair Association, where he served as chairman for 44 years and helped to raise many thousands of dollars to support the Legion. His commitment to civic service earned him many recognitions and awards from groups as diverse as the American Legion, the City of Greenville, and the Governor of South Carolina who presented him with our State's highest award, "The Order of the Palmetto".

Perhaps the one thing that Walter Wilkins loved more than practicing law was his family. He was very devoted to his lovely wife, Evelyn, and their three children: Nancy Wilkins Lydon; Judge William W. Wilkins, Jr.; attorney and Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, David H. Wilkins; and Dr. Robert T. Wilkins of Denver, Colorado.

As a class project, one of Walter's grandchildren wrote a short essay about him, and I would like to share an excerpt of it with you:

My grandfather, Walter Wilkins or "Papa", has had a great influence on my life. Thanks in large part to "Papa", our family name is well respected in the community. Having a family tradition of which I am very proud means a great deal to me. I was not really aware that "Papa" did more for us than simply give us a little money at Christmastime until my entire family gathered for a ceremony in "Papa's" honor by a well-known organization in Greenville County. The speaker talked a great deal about "Papa's" many contributions to the community. It was then I realized how much we owe "Papa" for our good name and reputation. "Papa" is not as strong and healthy as he used to be, and I'm afraid he won't be with us for too many more years. But his contributions to our family will live on. He has given us a legacy of integrity and honor, and taught us to always do our very best. I know that's why he tried so hard to make clear to his children and grandchildren when he would stress hard work in our schoolwork and athletics. I can still picture in my mind playing football and other sports in his backyard and looking up at the window and making eye contact with him sitting there watching me play, pulling for me to always do my best.

Certainly a moving and fitting tribute to a unique man. All those who knew Walter Wilkins, Sr. share the sense of loss his family must feel and they have our deepest sympathies on the passing of their father and grandfather.

THE LATE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, LES ASPIN

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, providing for the adequate defense of our Nation is a concern that members of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the House Committee on National Security take quite seriously. Political differences are pushed aside in order to ensure that our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen are well provided for, both in the equipment they require to do their jobs and in being compensated for their sacrifices in service to the United States. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with a number of men and women on these committees who have demonstrated their commitment to our personnel in uniform and for the security of the United States. One of the most serious-minded and analytical of this group was the former chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin, who unexpectedly passed away recently after suffering a massive stroke.

A graduate of Yale, Oxford, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Les was a man who dedicated almost his whole adult life to the national security field. Les entered government service with Robert McNamara and served in the Pentagon during the Vietnam War. After deciding to leave the Department of Defense, Les turned to academia and taught economics at Marquette for a year before running for, and being elected to, Congress where he served from 1971 until 1993. It was during those years that I came to know Les well, especially as he climbed the leadership ladder of the House Armed Services Committee. As its Chairman, he surprised, and even angered, a number of people with his stands in favor of the MX missile, aid to the Contras, and for his support in our military efforts against Saddam Hussein. He assumed these positions because he studied the issues, weighed their costs and benefits, and acted in a manner that was in the best interests of the United States.

In 1992, his role as an advocate for the armed services brought him to the attention of then newly elected President Clinton, who decided that Les would make an ideal Secretary of Defense. Resigning from his powerful seat in the House, Les again heeded the cry of service and assumed the Secretary's job, a position that some said he coveted and many thought him ideal to hold. Unfortunately, his tenure in this post is not remembered with as much admiration as was his service in the Congress.