

them of harboring the racist and sexist views of the framers. Yet they peddle those views almost mindlessly.

We either treasure democracy or we don't. If we do, the more of it the better. So I say of the Motor Voter law and mail ballot: "Welcome and hooray!"

SENATOR COHEN: WHY I AM LEAVING

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I received a note in the mail from Marion Plancon of Staten Island, NY, and she enclosed an op-ed piece written by our colleague, Senator WILLIAM COHEN, for the Los Angeles Times.

Somehow I missed seeing the original publication of it.

But I have found through the years on the Senate floor and with my service with him in the House, that our colleague, BILL COHEN usually makes sense.

And his call for greater civility, less hostility, more reason, and less shouting is a call that should be heeded in this body, and also by the American public.

I wish that the extremes of partisanship and hostility were only in the House and Senate or only between the administration and Congress.

Unfortunately, we do reflect the American public sometimes more than we should.

We should be a reconciling force, and I fear that we are not.

I ask that the WILLIAM COHEN op-ed piece be printed in the RECORD.

The column follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times]

WHY I AM LEAVING

(By William S. Cohen)

Last week, I announced that I would not seek reelection to the Senate for a fourth term. I have been moved by the reaction of my constituents and colleagues. Many expressed sadness over my decision, and nearly all were perplexed. Why are so many leaving the Senate? How can the center hold? Won't the system fall apart?

It is not a case, to continue with Yeats's words, "that the best lack all conviction while the worst are full of passionate intensity."

Such a poetic construct presumes too much and maligns the character and capabilities of those who have most recently arrived in Congress and those who have chosen to remain.

Those of us leaving the Senate do so for unique and deeply personal reasons. I suspect, however, that we share a common level of frustration over the absence of political accord and the increase in personal hostilities that now permeate our system and our society.

Increasingly, public officials face: Too little time to reason and reflect; the hair-trigger presumption of guilt pulled at the slightest whisper of impropriety; the schizophrenia of a public that wants less government spending, more government services and lower taxes, and the unyielding demands of proliferating single-issue constituencies.

Too many hours are devoted to endless motion without movement, interminable debate without decision and rhetorical finger-pointing without practical problem-solving.

Our republic, we know, was designed to be slow-moving and deliberative. Our Founding

Fathers were convinced that power had to be entrusted to someone, but that no one could be entirely trusted with power. They devised a brilliant system of checks and balances to prevent the tyranny of the many by the few. They constructed a perfect triangle of allocated and checked power, Euclidean in symmetry and balance. There could be no rash action, no rush to judgment, no legislative mob rule, no unrestrained chief executive.

The difficulty with this diffusion of power in today's cyberspace age is that everyone is in check, but no one is in charge.

But more than the constitutional separation of powers is leading to the unprecedented stalemate that exists today. There has been a breakdown in civil debate and discourse. Enmity at times has become so intense that members of Congress have resorted to shoving matches outside the legislative chambers. The Russian Duma, it seems, is slouching its way toward the Potomac as debate gives way to diatribe.

We are witnessing a gravitational pull away from center-based politics to the extremes on both the right and left. Those who seek compromise and consensus are depicted with scorn as a "mushy middle" that is weak and unprincipled. By contrast, those who plant their feet in the concrete of ideological absolutism are heralded as heroic defenders of truth, justice and the American way.

The departure of centrists from party ranks may be cheered by ideologues in the short term. But unless the American people are willing to embrace one party dominance and governance for extended periods (or turn to the British parliamentary model, which I don't recommend), then elements within the liberal and conservative factions will necessarily move back to the center, toward compromise and, yes, consensus.

The American people are experiencing a great deal of anger and anxiety at this time. The stern virtues of self-discipline and fiscal prudence have given way to the soft vices of mindless consumption and selfish gratification. We are now paying for the wages of our sins, and ironically, our citizens are angry with political leaders who have indulged their appetites, purchased their votes and passed the bills to the next generation. The road to fiscal solvency and sanity will not be easy, and it surely will not be paved with the bloated promises of blandishments of political extremists.

I have devoted nearly a quarter of a century to public service and a search for common ground in a society that is growing in complexity and diversity. Although I have decided to enter the private world to pursue new challenges and opportunities, I remain convinced that the American political system will pass through this transitional phase in our history and return to the center, the place where most people live and a democracy functions best.

JAMES THOMAS VALVANO

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, March 10, 1996, marked what would have been James Thomas Valvano's 50th birthday. It has been almost 3 years since the Queens, NY, native lost a rather public battle with cancer. The intent here, however, is not to eulogize. And any attempt to do so would pale in comparison to the impassioned eloquence of that offered on this floor by my distinguished friend and colleague from North Carolina, Mr. HELMS on April 28, 1993. I did not know Jim Valvano—barely knew of him. But I am aware of the good work done by the

foundation he founded in the final weeks of his life.

On March 4, 1993, Jim Valvano was awarded the inaugural ESPN Arthur Ashe Award for Courage at the American Sports Awards. In an acceptance speech that was widely noted and shall long be remembered, he announced the creation of the V Foundation for Cancer Research. With a Churchillian stoutness of spirit, Valvano set forth the mission:

It may not save my life. It may save my children's lives. It may save someone you love. . . . [I]t's motto is, "Don't give up, don't ever give up." That's what I'm going to do every minute that I have left . . . so that someone else might survive, might prosper and might actually be cured of this dreaded disease. . . . I'm going to work as hard as I can for cancer research and hopefully, maybe, we'll have some cures and some breakthroughs.

Since that night the V Foundation has raised more than \$2.3 million for that mission. Here are just some of the organizations and programs to which the V Foundation has contributed: \$250,000 to fund a national public awareness campaign through the NCCR [National Coalition of Cancer Researchers]; \$100,000 to fund Dr. Gerold Bepler at Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center; \$100,000 to fund a 2-year grant for Dr. Phil Hochhauser at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York; \$100,000 to the UNC Lineberger Cancer Center for construction of the Jim Valvano Cancer Research Lab; \$100,000 to fund Dr. Leland Powell at the University of California at San Diego; \$100,000 to fund the research of Dr. Thomas Gajewski at the University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center; \$29,000 to the Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, KY, for the construction of the Angela Valvano Classroom.

Any basketball coach who carried a collection of Emily Dickinson poems in his gym bag and quoted Edna St. Vincent Millay and Ralph Waldo Emerson to sports reporters most certainly knew the impermanence of athletic achievements. Records are broken, victory banners fade, championship rings tarnish. But when all of these are long forgot, James Thomas Valvano will be remembered to the beneficiaries of the foundation that bears his name. And through them, to us all.

Mr. President, I ask that the entire text of Jim Valvano's remarks at the 1993 ESPN Awards be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. That's the lowest I've ever seen Dick Vitale since the owner of the Detroit Pistons called him in and told him he should go into broadcasting.

I can't tell you what an honor it is, to even be mentioned in the same breath with Arthur Ashe. This is something I certainly will treasure forever. But, as it said on the tape, and I also don't have one of those things going with the cue cards, so I'm going to speak longer than anybody else has spoken tonight. That's the way it goes. Time is very precious to me. I don't know how much I