

agency for any Federal commodity purchase program, including the program authorized under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c) except that the Department of Agriculture or other Federal agency may utilize lot inspection to establish a reasonable degree of certainty that fish or fish products purchased under a Federal commodity purchase program, including the program authorized under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), meet Federal product specifications.

SINGING SENATORS TRIBUTE TO SENATOR MARK HATFIELD

• Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, last Thursday evening was a special night in the life of the U.S. Senate. That night the Senate paid tribute to Senator MARK HATFIELD in anticipation of his retirement from the Senate at the end of this Congress, and in recognition of his outstanding service to Oregon, the Senate, and to the Nation.

Thursday night was one of those evenings that makes service in the U.S. Senate a privilege. As the accompanying article from the Washington Post reports, "How many politicians could get both Bill Clinton and TRENT LOTT to sing their praises. Senator MARK HATFIELD, for one." The entertainment was also a highlight. The Singing Senators—TRENT LOTT, LARRY CRAIG, JOHN ASHCROFT, and JIM JEFFORDS—brought the house down as they sang in near perfect harmony such tunes as "Dig a Little Deeper" and "Elvira."

The evening of course belonged to Senator HATFIELD. The evening's quiet humor, graciousness, thoughtful remarks, and kind words were perfect for the witty, gracious, thoughtful, and kind MARK HATFIELD. I ask that the article from the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 19 1996]

HATS OFF TO MARK HATFIELD

SENATORS GATHER TO SING PRAISES OF RETIRING GENTLEMAN FROM OREGON

(By Roxanne Roberts)

Short of giving away millions of dollars, the best way to ensure lavish tributes this year is to resign from the United States Senate.

But how many politicians could get both Bill Clinton and Trent Lott to sing their praises? Sen. Mark Hatfield, for one.

"Because he has tried to love his enemies, he has no enemies," said the president last night, thanking the retiring Oregon Republican for his unwavering conviction, humanitarian spirit, faith and 30 years of consensus building. "This town is the poorer for his leaving, but the richer for his legacy."

One could also detect a serious undertone in the Sheraton Washington ballroom that went beyond the loss of this one "remarkable man," as Clinton called him. Hatfield is one of 14 senators who have decided not to return, the largest exodus from the august institution in 100 years.

"I approach this evening with an inescapable nostalgia," said a subdued Howard Baker. Hatfield is the last of the class who, with Baker, came to the Senate in January 1967. "With his retirement, not only a distinguished career, but a political era, is ending," said the former majority leader.

Heads in the audience of more than 700 nodded in agreement. The dinner for Hatfield

was the second in what promises to be a continuing lovefest for moderate politicians on both sides of the aisle: A black-tie dinner in May for Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) kicked off the tributes, with most of the Senate and former president George Bush in attendance.

"It was very, very touching," said Simpson last night. "I loved it."

Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.), who is also leaving, noted that a retiring senator can do almost no wrong. "Most people wish you well," he said.

"They're not as demanding. Maybe they figure now you can tell them to . . ."—he paused and smiled broadly—. . . whatever."

Hatfield's dinner and the entertainment were delayed by—what else?—a Senate vote. So the honoree and the president opened the program with a little mutual admiration.

Hatfield, characteristically, talked about what he had in common with Clinton: both small-town boys, both governors and "both of us, in our time in Washington, have managed to irritate both the Republicans and Democrats," said the only GOP senator to vote against the balanced-budget amendment last year on principle.

"If all of us could be more like you, America would be an even greater nation," Clinton returned.

Once the "entertainment" had cast its votes, they arrived to take the stage. The "Singing Senators"—Majority Leader Lott, Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Jim Jeffords (R-Vt.) and John Ashcroft (R-Mo.)—are a cross between a barbershop quartet and IRS auditors.

"It sort of epitomizes the Senate," said Lott. "We don't always make great music, but we keep working on it."

There were high fives after the first medley. ("Anytime we start together and end together, we celebrate," Lott explained). Then they belted out three spirited but dreadful selections, including "Dig a Little Deeper" (a nod to Hatfield's chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee), and capped the performance with Lott soloing on "Elvira."

"Think of it this way: It's in a good cause," observed emcee Cokie Roberts wryly.

The cause, the Mark O. Hatfield Library at Willamette University in Hatfield's home state, received the proceeds of the \$500-per-seat event. Even lobbyists contributed solely out of admiration for Hatfield.

"Hatfield's leaving, so there's nothing he can do for us," said one who declined to identify himself. "He has been a straight-shooter his entire career. He's a good guy and deserves the recognition."

After dinner, a video chronicled Hatfield's career, including his opposition to the death penalty and his work to ban nuclear testing.

When it was his turn to speak, Hatfield didn't crack a smile. "He's always reserved and serious," said Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.). "And yet, when you're alone with him, he's gentle, thoughtful, kind. He's just a splendid human being."

Calling himself truly blessed, Hatfield thanked his family and staff. The son of a blacksmith and a schoolteacher also thanked long-dead teachers and voters, then moved on to his colleagues.

"For your diversity—Republicans, Democrats, Independents—you have helped keep me in the political center," said Hatfield.

"And I'm grateful."

TRIBUTE TO SAM M. GIBBONS

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, it was a great privilege for me to introduce legislation to name the Federal Courthouse in Tampa, FL as the Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse.

The Honorable SAM GIBBONS has devoted his entire life to serving the United States of America. A veteran of World War II, GIBBONS was awarded the Bronze Star after parachuting into Normandy on D-day as a part of the initial Allied assault force. He achieved the rank of captain in the 501st Parachute Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division before embarking on his long and distinguished career as a public servant.

GIBBONS' career in public service began with his election to the Florida House of Representatives in 1952. In the Florida House, he passed legislation creating the University of South Florida and is appropriately recognized as The father of the University of South Florida. In 1958, GIBBONS' moved from the House to the Florida Senate where he enacted legislation to establish Florida's regional water management districts. These districts are vital to Florida's ability to allocate and preserve its precious water resources.

GIBBONS barnstormed into the U.S. Congress in 1962. President Johnson appointed GIBBONS, then a junior Congressman, floor manager of his Great Society initiatives. GIBBONS deftly steered this legislation, including Project Head Start, through the Congress. He also wrote the law that allows Americans over the age of 55 to protect, from taxation, capital gains from the sale of their primary homes. Despite his enormous achievements in social policy, GIBBONS' experience as a legislator was not limited solely to domestic issues.

As acting chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee in 1994 and chairman of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee from 1981 through May 1994, GIBBONS has been a champion of open markets and free trade around the world. Under his direction, two of our Nation's most comprehensive trade agreements, the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] passed Congress, and were signed into law.

Today, Congressman GIBBONS sits as the Dean of the Florida congressional delegation. At the end of the 104th Congress, GIBBONS will complete his 17th term representing the Tampa Bay area. The GIBBONS family has lived in Tampa for more than a century. Congressman and Mrs. Gibbons, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year, have also served together tirelessly to improve the lives all Tampa residents.

A graduate of the University of Florida College of Law and a member of Florida Blue Key, GIBBONS has served the State of Florida and the United States of America with distinction. This courthouse should be named as a tribute to the lifetime works of Congressman SAM M. GIBBONS. •

HONORING THOMAS ROMANO

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Thomas Russell