

During the last Congress Senator EXON chaired the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Surface Transportation. In 1994 he succeeded in ensuring the termination of the ICC would occur in a manner that still protected the needs of agricultural shippers who needed effective oversight of the rail industry. Senator EXON was also a champion of rail safety issues, and in 1994 led the fight to authorize rail safety programs and ensure minimum safety standards for railroad cars.

Senator EXON has also worked for some time on nuclear weapons testing issues, at one time chairing the Armed Services subcommittee with jurisdiction over this issue. He joined Senator HATFIELD and former Majority Leader George Mitchell in 1992 in support of a measure to restrict and eventually end U.S. testing of nuclear weapons. Just this week we have seen the fruits of those efforts, with the signing of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty at the United Nations. Senator EXON attended that signing, and should be proud that through the efforts of many, the world will be a safer place for our children and grandchildren.

Senator EXON will soon return to his home in Lincoln. With more time for leisure activities, I am certain he won't miss many baseball games when the St. Louis Cardinals are playing. But Jim EXON's dedication and expertise on many issues will be missed greatly in the U.S. Senate, even as Nebraskans welcome him home. I will miss my good friend and colleague.

THE 35th ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, today marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in the first year of John F. Kennedy's Presidency.

The groundwork had been laid earlier in the Eisenhower administration, and the effort reached fruition in 1961. I was privileged to be part of that process as a new Senator in his first year of service.

I had become quite interested in the new processes of arms control, and I went with my more veteran and most distinguished colleagues, Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Senator Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania, to argue the case that the new agency would have more weight and authority if it were established not by Executive order, but by the Congress as a statutory agency of the Federal Government. Fortunately, our friends in the White House agreed, and, over the next several months, the agency was created.

The Agency was started with much hope and high expectations. Some even feared that the Director of the Agency would be too powerful and might take steps that endangered the national security by moving too precipitously to control arms. In the process of com-

promise, the statute was worked out so that the Agency could fulfill high expectations, but the nation would be protected from precipitous arms control.

As matters have worked out, it is clear that those who feared that ACDA would go too far have had their fears unrealized. Those who hoped that the Agency would soar to new heights of arms control have had their dreams only partially realized. Nonetheless, the 35 years have been marked by many solid arms control achievements that have helped to ensure the protection of the national interests of the United States and that have served to demonstrate to the rest of the world that the United States is willing to continue on the course of arms control.

The achievements during the period of ACDA's existence include: the Limited Test Ban Treaty, Outer Space Treaty, Protocols to the Latin American Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty, Non-Proliferation Treaty, Seabed Arms Control Treaty, Biological Weapons Convention, Incidents at Sea Agreement, the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the SALT I Interim Agreement, the Threshold Test Ban Treaty, Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty, Environmental Modification Convention, Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, START I Treaty, START II Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention to be considered a-new by the Senate next year, and the recently signed Comprehensive Test Ban.

The ACDA involvement has varied among the treaties—some were achieved by Presidential envoys, and some by officials of the Department of State. In other cases, the Agency had the lead. But, in almost all cases of significant agreements, the Agency provided much of the necessary technical and legal expertise and provided the continuing backstopping that was necessary for success in negotiations year-in and year-out. The Arms Control Agency has provided an arms control perspective and expertise whenever needed by others in the executive branch. In the most successful times for the Agency as in this administration, the President and the Secretary of State have turned to the Director and to his staff as principal advisers on arms control and, often, nonproliferation. This experience has demonstrated the wisdom of President Kennedy and the Congress in their decision to give arms control a real boost by creating the only separate agency of its type in the world.

Now that the cold war is over, some question the continued need for an arms control and disarmament agency. Some ask whether the essential tasks of arms control and disarmament are not done. In recent rounds of budget cutting, the Agency has indeed become beleaguered. It is fighting even now for a budgetary level at which it can successfully accomplish the tasks assigned to it. I hope very much that the effort to have ACDA adequately funded will

be successful. Should we not adequately fund ACDA—with a budgetary level equivalent to the cost of a single fighter aircraft—I believe that we will rue that decision when we come to realize that the Agency made a great difference to our true national security interests.

One can legitimately ask whether there are any truly significant challenges ahead. The able and dedicated current Director, John Holum, gave a chilling look at the challenges that truly face this country in the area of nonproliferation alone when he said in February at George Washington University:

"Meanwhile, the Soviet-American arms race has been overshadowed by a danger perhaps even more ominous: proliferation of weapons of mass destruction—whether nuclear, chemical or biological, or the missiles to deliver them—to rogue regimes and terrorists around the world.

By reputable estimates, more than 40 countries now would have the technical and material ability to develop nuclear weapons, if they decided to do so.

More than 15 nations have at least short range ballistic missiles, and many of these are seeking to acquire, or already have, weapons of mass destruction.

We believe that more than two dozen countries—many hostile to us—have chemical weapons programs.

The deadly gas attack in Tokyo's subway last year crossed a fateful threshold: the first use of weapons of mass destruction not by governments but terrorists, against an urban civilian population.

Revelations about Iraq have provided a chilling reminder that biological weapons are also attractive to outlaw governments and groups.

And recalling the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombings, we must ponder how even more awful the suffering would be if even primitive nuclear, chemical or biological weapons ever fell into unrestrained and evil hands."

Mr. President, I commend the Arms Control Agency and its excellent staff. I hope very much that the Congress of the U.S. will have the wisdom to provide the necessary support and backing to the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency as it serves us and all Americans in the future in helping to find ways to deal with the threats to peace and security, the United States, its friends, and its allies will face in the period ahead.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most well-liked and respected members of the Senate. Judge HEFLIN has brought to this body a keen mind, a sharp wit, and a pleasant sense of humor that makes it a true pleasure to serve with him. His retirement this year is a tremendous loss to the Senate, his State, and the Nation.

I have come to know The Judge best through our work on the Senate Agriculture Committee. Since I joined the Senate in 1987, Judge HEFLIN and I have worked together to improve the quality of life for rural citizens. Senator

HEFLIN represents a rural State, Alabama, and he knows what's needed to maintain quality of life. He knows that everything which makes up the rural way of life—jobs, schools, hospitals, the rural infrastructure—depends on having a vibrant economic base.

As it is in North Dakota, agriculture is key to rural life in Alabama. Senator HEFLIN understands the need to preserve and protect the economic viability of American farmers in fiercely competitive global agricultural markets. He understands the complexities of world agricultural trade and has stood strongly behind U.S. farmers in their efforts to compete. A staunch defender of U.S. peanut growers, The Judge is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure their concerns are heard in the development of agricultural legislation. But more than that, he always works hard to convey to the nonagriculture community the importance of maintaining a strong, broad-based agricultural system in the United States.

Closely linked with agriculture is the rural infrastructure, and Senator HEFLIN knows perhaps better than anyone in this body that a strong infrastructure is absolutely crucial to preserving the economic base of rural areas. Rural electric and telephone cooperatives are the lifeblood of rural areas, and without them many citizens would receive poor service, expensive service, or no service at all. Senator HEFLIN fights off critics of Federal Government rural development efforts with stern determination, clear arguments and effective strategies. I truly admire him for it, and am glad to say I've joined him in that effort.

I'm sure every Member of this body has a favorite story about HOWELL HEFLIN. His character and personality have often brought easy smiles into what many times have been very difficult situations. One of my favorites occurred just last year in the Senate Agriculture Committee during negotiations on the 1996 farm bill. The Committee Democrats were present, waiting for our Republican counterparts to finish their caucus and enter the room. Suddenly, above the din of the Members, staff, and lobbyists came a bellowing call, "Sound the pachyderm horns!" The Judge had made it known he wasn't interested in waiting for the Republicans any longer. They promptly returned.

But it will not be for just his wit that I will miss Judge HEFLIN. He is a good friend, a great Senator, and a remarkable American. I admire him greatly for all that he has done. And knowing that this week he admitted himself into an Alabama hospital, I can only say that I wish him a speedy recovery, my sincerest appreciation for the years we've served together, and my best heart-felt wishes for a long, happy, and comfortable retirement.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR HANK BROWN

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute and bid farewell to

the distinguished Senator from Colorado, Senator HANK BROWN.

Senator BROWN has committed many years to the people of Colorado, spending 10 years in the House of Representatives and 6 here in the Senate. Though he has much to offer this body, Senator BROWN has chosen to limit his time in Washington. The Senate will certainly miss his leadership and commitment.

Senator BROWN and I share a common concern for getting this country's fiscal house in order, though, at times, that involves making difficult choices. I have had the great pleasure of working with Senator BROWN as a member of the Centrist Coalition, a bipartisan group of Senators. This group worked diligently to agree to an alternative budget plan. This plan incorporated the suggestions of the National Governors' Association on welfare and Medicaid issues, while preserving a safety net for our Nation's most vulnerable populations. Though our plan was narrowly defeated, it was the only bipartisan budget effort to receive strong support during the 104th Congress. I was honored to work with Senator BROWN on the effort.

Prior to his time in Congress, HANK BROWN served our country in Vietnam. A decorated veteran, he has maintained a commitment to ensuring that the United States dealings with Vietnam are appropriate and fair. His unique knowledge and perspective have made him an invaluable contributor to the debates on foreign policy and U.S. military involvement in the world community.

Senator BROWN has also exhibited leadership on behalf of ranchers; as a Senator from North Dakota, I fully appreciate his efforts in this area. During debate on the 1994 Interior appropriations bill, HANK BROWN led the fight against an amendment to raise grazing fees. I was proud to join him in this successful fight, and the ranchers of my State are thankful for his leadership.

Above all, it is Senator BROWN's integrity, thoughtfulness, and commitment to principles that make him a valued Member of the Senate. He will be greatly missed in this body, and I wish him well as he embarks on the next stage of his life.

HONORING THE TAFTS ON THEIR 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable:

Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Clarence and Ethel Taft

of Springfield, MO, who on September 10, 1996, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Clarence and Ethel's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I salute one of my Democratic colleagues who is retiring at the end of this Congress, Senator DAVID PRYOR of Arkansas. I have been privileged to serve with David PRYOR not only in the Senate but also on the Finance and Agriculture Committees. Senator PRYOR is a true gentleman, a thoughtful statesman, and a champion for all taxpayers, farmers, and senior citizens. His presence in the United States Senate will be missed.

Senator PRYOR's service to his constituents in Arkansas and the Nation is remarkable. He was elected to the first of three terms as a U.S. Congressman for the Fourth District of Arkansas in 1966. He became Governor in 1974. In 1978, the people of Arkansas elected him to serve in the U.S. Senate. Senator PRYOR was elected to his third Senate term in 1990 without a challenger.

Through his service on the Senate Finance Committee, Senator PRYOR has made a difference in the day-to-day life of every American. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights will be considered as one of Senator PRYOR's lasting legacies. Thanks to his efforts in enacting this legislation, taxpayers are guaranteed certain basic rights when dealing with the Internal Revenue Service.

The Agriculture Committee provided Senator PRYOR with the perfect venue to improve the lives of America's farmers and ensure an abundant and safe food supply for this country and the world. He has been a watchdog for the interests of Arkansas farmers. His work on improving food quality and safety will be remembered by many future generations.

Senator PRYOR is probably best known for his work on behalf of our senior citizens. The Senate Special Committee on Aging was chaired by Senator PRYOR for 6 years and he currently serves as the ranking minority member. Senator PRYOR fought to save the Social Security system and reform the nursing home industry. He also focused the Nation's attention on the soaring prices of prescription drugs. His dedication to the issues facing our senior citizens is inspiring.

Mr. President, dedication, integrity, and humility are characteristics that best describe Senator PRYOR's presence in the Senate. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of his Arkansas constituents