

Answer. Well, it remains to be seen. They slowed the expenditures of government. They made the Democrats pause and look and listen. In fact, the only reason (President) Clinton got elected the last time is because he foreclosed (GOP presidential hopeful Bob) Dole on all his issues. He took his issues away from him.

Question. You mean he adopted Sen. Dole's platform and turned it into his own? When we talked last week, you mentioned that you think Bill Clinton is the cleverest president since Franklin Roosevelt. Why do you say that?

Answer. He can turn it around on a dime, and nobody ever notices. I give that fellow (former presidential consultant Dick) Morris credit for that. President Clinton was talking about gays in the military and divisive things like that, and (Morris) takes over his campaign and turns it around 180 degrees. He took Dole's issues away from him, and he got elected on Dole's issues.

Question. What do you think of President Clinton's performance so far?

Answer. I'd give him a plus on some things, like turning away from his liberal policies and adopting basic conservative policies and getting elected.

Question. What are some minuses?

Answer. Shifting around and not having any strong opinions on anything.

Questions. What do you think of U.S. Sen. Paul Coverdell, the man who holds the seat you held so long?

Answer. I don't know Coverdell well. I've had two or three conversations with him. But I've been impressed with him. I check his voting record every week in the Sunday paper. I like the way he votes. Thus far, I think his voting record has been good. I agree with him more than 90 percent of the time. I think he's doing all right.

Question. What concerns you most about government in 1997?

Answer. Too much taxes. Too much regulation. Too much expenditure. Basically, the government does for people what they cannot do for themselves.

Question. What about society? What do you think of society in general?

Answer. It reminds me of the latter days of the Roman Empire. We have gotten away from faith and values, the things that made this country great. It's a sad commentary. Crime is rampant, and children are being born out of wedlock and looking to their government for support. There's declining morality and a lack of discipline all over the country.

Question. What should be done to turn things around?

Answer. We should have substitute fathers and mothers for these (parentless and single-parent) people. They could teach them values while they're young. The substitutes would be role models for them. They would have role models besides prostitutes and drug peddlers.

Question. How would you hook up youngsters with the substitutes?

Answer. It would take an organized effort on the part of all churches in the country, all of the governments in the country, all of the civic clubs in the country. It would be the most mammoth undertaking we've had in a long time. But it could save the country. It would take a long time. But a good start would be to save 50 children in Henry County (where Talmadge lives).

Question. You've had a few bouts with the news media. What do you think of the media?

Answer. They've adopted a new policy since World War II when I first started out in politics. They used to want to know why, who, where, what, when and how. Those were fundamental virtues of journalism. The jour-

nalism teachers instilled those fundamental virtues in their students. Now, they're prosecutors of anybody holding public office. A politician has to prove his innocence every day. (Media) treats everyone as if they're crooks.

Question. How is the world different today from what it was before you retired?

Answer. The collapse of communism has made it a different world. Freedom is beginning to be brought to all countries throughout the world, almost all of them. During my days in the Senate, we wondered what was going to prevail, communism or freedom.

Question. What are you most proud of?

Answer. My accomplishments as governor of the state of Georgia. I think Georgia made its greatest progress when I was governor. It became truly the Empire State of the South. It's been making progress since that time in building schools, protecting natural resources, building roads and bridges—you name it. We paved 10,000 miles of roads. We gave teachers a raise in salary of over 100 percent. We built new buildings. We built health centers and hospitals throughout the state. When I took office, the only hospitals we had in Georgia were a few in the larger cities. If a person had an accident in rural Georgia, they had to go to Macon or Savannah or Jacksonville, Fla., to get treatment. Now they're all over.

Question. If you were running for office today, what would your platform be?

Answer. It would be what I've always run on—economical government, service to the constituency and hard work.

Question. What advice would you give to anyone who'd listen?

Answer. Work hard and stay out of trouble. Save your money and make prudent investments. Take an Egyptian or Indian who comes to this country. They don't speak the English language, and they work for minimum wage. But they save half their money. In a few years, they're wealthy. They save their money and make prudent investments.

Once an avid hunter, Talmadge no longer pursues that sport because of his arthritic knees, but he spends many hours fishing in one of the five lakes near his home in Hampton. After he finished the interview, he sat down to rest in his leather recliner sitting between a portrait of himself on the rear wall and a portrait of his famous father, Gene Talmadge, over the mantel.

"Come see me in two or three months," Talmadge smiled and said. "When the weather warms up, we'll go fishing."

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 21, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,352,733,602,413.77. (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred thirty-three million, six hundred two thousand, four hundred thirteen dollars and seventy-seven cents.)

Five years ago, April 21, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,885,690,000,000. (Three trillion, eight hundred eighty-five billion, six hundred ninety million.)

Ten years ago, April 21, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,271,325,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred seventy-one billion, three hundred twenty-five million.)

Fifteen years ago, April 21, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,066,640,000,000. (One trillion, sixty-six billion, six hundred forty million.)

Twenty-five years ago, April 21, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$427,853,000,000 (Four hundred twenty-seven billion, eight hundred fifty-three million), which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,924,880,602,413.77 (four trillion, nine hundred twenty-four billion, eight hundred eighty million, six hundred two thousand, four hundred thirteen dollars and seventy-seven cents), during the past 25 years.

SUPPLEMENT TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on April 17, 1997, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration adopted rules of procedure as a supplement to the Committee Rules of Procedure for the purpose of the committee's investigation of the election for U.S. Senator in the State of Louisiana in 1996.

I ask unanimous consent that the rules of procedure be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MOTION

(As passed by the Committee, April 17, 1997)

Whereas, the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 5 provides that the Senate is "the Judge of the Elections, Returns, and Qualifications of its own Members * * *";

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court has reviewed this Constitutional provision on several occasions and has held: "[The Senate] is the judge of elections, returns and qualifications of its members. * * * It is fully empowered, and may determine such matters without the aid of the House of Representatives or the Executive or Judicial Department," [*Reed et al. v. The County Comm'rs of Delaware County, Penn.*, 277 U.S. 376, 388 (1928)]; and

Whereas, in the course of Senate debate, it has been stated: "The Constitution vested in this body not only the power but the duty to judge, when there is a challenged election result involving the office of U.S. Senator." [Congressional Record Vol. 121, Part 1, p. 440].

Therefore, the Committee on Rules and Administration, having been given jurisdiction over "contested elections" under Rule 25 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, authorizes the Chairman, in consultation with the ranking minority member, to direct and conduct an Investigation of such scope as deemed necessary by the Chairman, into illegal or improper activities to determine the existence or absence of a body of fact that would justify the Senate in making the determination that fraud, irregularities or other errors, in the aggregate, affected the outcome of the election for United States Senator in the state of Louisiana in 1996.

This Committee Motion will operate in conjunction with and concurrent to the Standing Rules of the Senate. In addition, the following Rules of Procedure are applicable, as a supplement to the Committee Rules of Procedure:

A. *Full Committee subpoenas:* The chairman, with the approval of the ranking minority member of the Committee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials at a hearing or deposition, provided that the chairman