

politics. In an interview in 1970, he murmured, while his wife was out of the room, "The political bug is a curious bug." But he was also, she said, her best friend and supporter, and "one of the few unneurotic people left in society."

CORROSIVE AMBITION HAMPERS A CAREER

Ms. Abzug's own ambition was too corrosive for many people, even—or, perhaps, especially—for her fellow New York Democrats. When the State Legislature sliced up her district in 1972, they urged her to challenge one of the two conservative incumbent Democrats in adjoining districts, Representative John J. Rooney or Representative John M. Murphy. Instead, she opposed a liberal Democrat, William Fitts Ryan, in the 20th District, encompassing the Upper West Side and the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

The primary was bitter and, eventually, politically expensive to Ms. Abzug. Bill Ryan was one of the earliest heroes of the city's insurgent Democrats, an early opponent of the Vietnam War and a genuinely well-liked man who, as many of his constituents knew, was waging a gallant fight against cancer.

Mr. Ryan defeated Ms. Abzug in the Democratic primary but died before the general election. The Democratic County Committee appointed Ms. Abzug as the candidate to replace him, but she was challenged by Mr. Ryan's widow, Priscilla, who ran on the Liberal line. Ms. Abzug won in November, but she had made dedicated enemies who believed she was an overly aggressive politician who would not hesitate to attack anyone who got in her way. Ten years later, she was denied a seat in the state's delegation to the national party's biannual conference because New York leaders considered her disruptive.

In 1976, she gave up her House seat to run for the Senate. She lost in the primary, to Daniel Patrick Moynihan, by a margin of only 1 percent. Two more campaigns quickly followed. (In a 1978 interview, she said: "I'm a politician. I run for office, That's my profession.") She lost to Edward I. Koch in a crowded mayoral primary in 1977. The next year, running for the House again, she lost, again by 1 percent, to a little-known Republican, S. William Green.

She was appointed co-chairwoman of President Jimmy Carter's National Advisory Committee on Women, and then after disagreeing with him over economic policy, was dismissed. The majority of the committee members resigned in protest. Ms. Abzug, unapologetic, said with a shrug, "I've got to find myself another big, nonpaying job."

Her next and last campaign was in 1986, this time for a House seat in Westchester County. She won the primary in a burst of the old, ebullient campaigning style, but lost in November to Joseph J. DioGuardi, the Republican incumbent.

It was during that campaign that Martin Abzug died. Her friends said Ms. Abzug never recovered. Nine years later, she said in an interview, "I haven't been entirely the same since."

There was one more bid for office for her old house seat on the Upper West Side, when she announced her candidacy to replace Representative Ted Weiss on his death just before the 1992 election. But she was quickly eliminated from the field at the party convention.

During the next decade, Ms. Abzug suffered from ill health, including breast cancer, but continued to practice law and work for women's groups. She wrote a book, "Gender Gap," with her old friend Mim Kelber. She started a lobbying group called Women U.S.A. and founded the Women's Environment and Development Organization, a nonprofit group that works with international agencies.

In addition to her daughters, Eve and Liz, Ms. Abzug is survived by her sister, Helene Alexander of Great Neck, N.Y.

"I've been described as a tough and noisy woman, a prizefighter, a man hater, you name it," Ms. Abzug said of herself in "Bella." "they call me Battling Bella, Mother Courage and a Jewish mother with more complaints than Portnoy."

"There are those who say I'm impatient, impetuous, uppity, rude, profane, brash and overbearing. Whether I'm any of these things or all of them, you can decide for yourself. But whatever I am—and this ought to be made very clear at the outset—I am a very serious woman."•

RETIREMENT OF NORTHAMPTON CITY TREASURER, MS. SHIRLEY LAROSE

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today, to pay tribute to Ms. Shirley LaRose, a dedicated public servant who has devoted more than forty-three years of her life to the residents of Northampton, Massachusetts. The city treasurer's office, which has been brightened by her infectious smile and delightful manner, will soon bid farewell to this outstanding woman. She is trading in her balance sheets to enjoy the splendors of a well-deserved retirement.

It is my understanding that Ms. LaRose began her career in the office of the Northampton city treasurer in 1954 as a clerk. In the years to follow, she was promoted from junior to senior clerk, and then became assistant treasurer. She became treasurer of Northampton in 1972 and has run unopposed for the position in every single election since the primary in 1973. Not only is this stellar record a reflection of her competent handling of the city's financial needs, but also of the respect she earned from the people of Northampton.

During her years of overseeing the receipt and distribution of city funds as well as the salaries, life insurance, and retirement policies of its employees, I have been told that Ms. LaRose touched the lives of countless people. She served her community with deep integrity, and her contributions to its prosperity are remarkable. I stand today to thank Shirley for her years of service to Northampton and to wish her well in her retirement. Her loyalty and accomplishments will not soon be forgotten by the grateful citizens of Northampton.•

NOMINATION OF JAMES HORMEL

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I wish to speak today regarding the nomination of James Hormel of California to be the U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Last fall, after President Clinton nominated Jim Hormel to serve as our nation's next Ambassador to Luxembourg, the Foreign Relations Committee, on November 4, reported the nomination favorably by a vote of 16 to 2 and sent the nomination to the full Senate for consideration. During the

course of this business meeting, no member of the Committee spoke in opposition to the nomination.

The problem is that the Senate has not been able to consider this nomination because some of our colleagues have put "holds" on it. Before adjourning last year, the Senate confirmed some 50 nominees, whose nominations had been approved by the Foreign Relations Committee. The only nomination that languished was that of Jim Hormel and the reason for this is very obvious. Some of my colleagues oppose this nomination because Jim Hormel is openly gay. That means, in their view, that he is not fit to represent his country overseas in Luxembourg.

It doesn't matter that government officials in Luxembourg have been eager to support this nominee. It doesn't matter, apparently, that in his correspondence with our colleague Senator SMITH from Oregon, Jim Hormel went on the record—in unprecedented fashion—in saying that he would not use his position as Ambassador to push any personal agenda, that his partner would not travel with him to Luxembourg, and his public positions would be those of the United States government only. All that matters, I suspect, for some members of this Senate, is that Jim Hormel is gay, that the most private and intimate elements of his lifestyle disqualify him from public service.

Mr. President, the issue is not and should not be Mr. Hormel's sexual orientation. The only relevant question here is whether he is qualified to undertake the position for which he has been nominated. The answer to that is "yes".

He has impressive academic credentials, having received his undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College and his J.D. from the University of Chicago. He has served as Assistant Dean and Dean of students at the University of Chicago. He currently sits on the board of managers of Swarthmore.

Jim Hormel is a loving father and grandfather, a businessman who ran a successful company for years, and a philanthropist who has supported, in his words but most importantly in his deeds, some of the most important causes facing this country. Outside the beltway, there's a chorus of very public support for this nominee. Those who care about autism, breast cancer research, AIDS research, religious diversity and human rights—they've all rallied together behind this nominee. The Episcopal Archdiocese of California has called Jim Hormel "an exemplary representative of the United States of America." Leaders from the business world, from the universities, and from diplomatic circles, including, I might add, former Secretary of State George Schultz, have stated publicly that James Hormel's public character and intellect make him an exceptionally strong nominee.

This is not the first time that Jim Hormel has been asked to serve his