

could demagog that we cannot have a tax cut because of the Social Security surplus and then in the next minute, propose to spend the so-called surplus on all these investments is beyond me. I just have no intention whatsoever of going along with that.

I think we should abide by the budget. I do not think we should squander the surplus with new Federal spending. Some of us were interested in tax cuts because we knew that if we did not allow taxpayers to keep their money, that Congress and/or the administration would say, "Well, let's have more spending." There is a real propensity around the place to spend money.

I just hope that our colleagues will resist that temptation. I hope that they will resist these new overtures by the administration that seems to think they should be an equal body with Congress in writing appropriations bills. I think we should have legitimate negotiations but, frankly, that does not make people equal partners.

We have equal branches of Government with divisions of powers. Again, the Constitution says that Congress shall write the laws and Congress shall appropriate the money. We need to get on with our business and do that, send the appropriations bills to the President. If he vetoes them, fine, then let's pass a continuing resolution to keep Government open.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR WENDELL FORD

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I have given accolades to a couple of my colleagues for their service in the Senate, including Senator BUMPERS. I see Senator FORD is on the floor. I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator FORD for 18 years on the Energy Committee. We worked together on a lot of things. And, in my opinion, some of the most significant legislation that passed Congress, in my tenure, we have worked together on.

One was the Natural Gas Deregulation Act that President Bush signed after about 6 years of negotiations and hard work, but probably one of the most difficult pieces of legislation that we have passed.

And if you go back on the history of natural gas regulation and deregulation, it was a very, very difficult task. It was a pleasure for me to work with Senator FORD in that respect. We worked together on other issues as well.

I compliment him for his 24 years of service in the Senate. Anyone that spends almost a quarter of a century of service in the Senate, I think, is to be complimented. I compliment him for his leadership and for his representation of the people of Kentucky. Again, it was a pleasure and honor for me to serve with him. I compliment him and wish him every best wish as he returns to his State of Kentucky.

I yield the floor.

#### TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES SENATOR DALE BUMPERS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in the bustling commotion of the ending days of the 105th Congress, members are preoccupied with efforts to enact sought after objectives important to their constituents. We are busy tying up loose ends, putting the finishing touches on projects, and looking forward to going home to our constituents and to a break in the hectic schedule of the United States Senate. Regrettably, as this session of Congress adjourns, we are also faced with the difficult task of saying goodbye to colleagues who have chosen to follow a new path in life.

As I reflect on my years in Congress and on my association with its many members and their various personalities, their goals and, yes, sometimes, their eccentricities, I am reminded of some very important milestones in history made possible by these fine Americans. I am reminded of my good fortune to have been associated with men and women representing the American people from all walks of life and from all corners of the United States.

In my reflections, I have thanked my Creator for allowing me to serve my country with such fine men and women, and I am, indeed, sorrowful at the upcoming loss of some of the finest men I have ever known.

I pay tribute today to an exceptional United States Senator, a man with whom it has been my honor to serve and to have been associated with—a man of unusual conviction, passion, and resolve. He has been called the last Southern liberal, and he is proud of it. He often quotes from "To Kill a Mocking Bird." He is THE commanding foe against the space station.

The above discourse clearly references the actions of only one man—Senator DALE BUMPERS, Democrat from Arkansas. He is the United States Senator responsible for "right-turn-on-red," his first legislative victory and one for which, I am told, he received devilish teasing from a colleague who warned that "many people might want to drive straight!"

I will miss my friend, who is retiring following twenty-four years of service. He leaves a legacy that has made a difference, not only to the people of Arkansas, but to all Americans. His tireless efforts to end federal policies that he believes give away resources that belong to the taxpayer will long be remembered by certain mining and ranching interests out West. And more than a few NASA space station contractors will continue to run when they hear his name! Contractors who worked on the now-terminated Superconducting Super Collider can only wish that Senator BUMPERS had chosen to retire earlier.

While many a press story covered his crusades against alleged lost causes, Senator DALE BUMPERS is a man that leaves this Senate with a triumphant record for the American people. In particular, Senator BUMPERS has been a

national leader in protecting the health of children. In fact, along with his wife, Betty, Senator BUMPERS has long promoted childhood immunizations, known safeguards in protecting the health of millions of children.

As the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, formerly the Chairman, DALE BUMPERS has represented the rural heart of America. He has fought for policies to help rural families, including securing funding for basic infrastructure projects that provide water and sewer facilities to small towns throughout the nation. I personally wish to thank Senator BUMPERS for being a leading advocate for funding on these vital projects, and I share his concern for the millions of Americans who do not have access to a clean, ample supply of drinking water.

Senator BUMPERS has further made a significant mark on efforts to protect family farmers. In particular, we owe our gratitude to DALE BUMPERS for his efforts to initiate programs to help young Americans become this nation's next generation of family farmers, a dwindling breed at risk of extinction. In honor of his service to rural America, I am proud that this Congress, in the Fiscal Year 1999 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, is formally paying tribute to his work by designating an Agricultural Research Service facility as the Dale BUMPERS National Rice Research Center. This action follows the recognition by the people of Arkansas in dedicating the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

Senator BUMPERS' noteworthy record also extends to many other constituencies. Through his ranking membership on the Senate Small Business Committee, he has fought to help self-employed people obtain health care. He has also been an advocate of funding for rural hospitals; for Medicaid; for the Women, Infants and Children feeding program. The list goes on and on.

DALE BUMPERS' legislative skills and record are clear. He is a modern hero to the underdog. But there is yet another side of the Senator from Arkansas that deserves recognition—the DALE BUMPERS who is a husband, a father, and a grandfather. Married to Betty Lou Flanagan, DALE's "Secretary of Peace," for 49 years, he is devoted to his marriage and his family. DALE and Betty have three children and six grandchildren, and DALE often speaks affectionately of his family and of their influence on his consideration of legislative issues. Yes, Senator DALE BUMPERS of Arkansas has a personal record of which he can be proud.

It is with regret that I bid farewell to my friend and colleague, who is now departing the United States Senate. I believe that the Senate has deeply benefited from the work of U.S. Senator DALE BUMPERS. As I say my farewell to DALE BUMPERS, I want him to know that when the 106th Congress convenes, I will remember his thoughtful recital