

This year one of the most notable fundraising trends hits very close to home, or to the dome, as the case may be: Congressional campaign committees raised more than three times as much soft money during 1999 than they raised during 1995—\$62 million compared to \$19.4 million.

That's a huge increase, Mr. President.

It is three times as much soft money—much of it raised by Members of Congress. The latest reports show record-breaking soft money figures for the first quarter of the year 2000, as well.

How should the public view this?

What can we expect them to think as Members of Congress ask for these unlimited contributions from corporations, unions and wealthy individuals, and then turn around and vote on legislation that directly affects those donors?

Frankly Mr. President, it's all the more reason for Americans to question our integrity, whether those donations have an impact on our decisions or not.

But we can regain some of the public's trust by doing one simple thing—banning soft money.

On January 24, in its opinion in the *Shrink Missouri* case, the Supreme Court stated even more clearly to us that we may take that step today without the slightest offense to the First Amendment.

I'll continue the fight to ban soft money this year, and ask every one of my colleagues to join me.

The fight to ban soft money is a fight to regain the public's trust, and Mr. President, there's no fight in our democracy today more worthwhile than that.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION AWARD DINNER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, last night Senator JOHN WARNER, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, was the recipient of the James Forrestal Memorial Award at a gathering of 900 distinguished leading individuals involved in the industrial and military affairs of this Nation. It was awarded last night in Washington. The Forrestal award has been given since 1954 to distinguished Americans who most effectively applied Secretary Forres-

tal's ideas of a close working relationship between the Government and the requirements of a strong national defense. Other recipients were George Bush, Sam Nunn, Scoop Jackson, John Tower, Barry Goldwater, John Stennis and, I believe, our Presiding Officer, the distinguished Senator from Alaska, TED STEVENS.

The award is given to a citizen of the United States who may be from the military services, government, or industry. Senator WARNER was honored last night with the Forrestal award for his distinguished public service relating to national security and national defense in a wide range of responsibilities. All of us in the Senate know that Senator WARNER was a former Navy enlisted man in World War II, enlisting as a 17-year-old, then serving again in Korea as a marine officer. I have heard him say he has gone through two basic trainings, both Navy and Marine.

Later, during the cold war era, JOHN served his Nation as Secretary of the Navy. His service to the Nation in this body began in 1978, and he has been on the Senate Armed Services Committee ever since, a total of 21 years. I know that JOHN enjoyed being honored by 900 of his friends and companions who provide the equipment our soldiers and sailors, marines and airmen use every day to maintain a strong national defense.

JOHN's public thanks to those in industry and in the services is an expression of thanks from all of us in Congress. I associate myself with his remarks that he made so eloquently last evening.

There is no one in this body who cares more about the men and women in uniform, our military retirees, and our veterans than JOHN WARNER. There is no one more committed to the defense of this Nation. The markup of our committee's bill for defense will be undertaken next week, and the debate on this floor will show, without question, the depth of Senator JOHN WARNER's commitment to the Nation.

We owe men such as JOHN WARNER our gratitude for leading us in times of turmoil. There have been many in history who have provided this kind of essential leadership. We are part of JOHN's team. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I am proud of him, his leadership and his friendship. Congratulations, JOHN, on being the recipient of the year 2000 James Forrestal Memorial Award.

I have the honor of serving with Senator WARNER on the Armed Services Committee. He is a gentleman's gentleman, a patriot's patriot. He is proud of being able to preside this year over a budget that produced the first real increase in defense spending in 15 years, a 4.8-percent pay raise for our men and women in uniform. It was a real accomplishment.

I have been honored to serve with him. I share with this body my pride in his being selected for this prestigious award.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after the Senator from Alabama deals with the procedural matters I be recognized for 5 minutes and then Senator FEINSTEIN be recognized following me for 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Reserving the right to object. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to follow Senator FEINSTEIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE RETIREMENT OF DR. HERB CHEEVER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, quite often on the floor of the Senate, we give speeches about extraordinary people who do extraordinary things. Today, I'd like to recognize someone whose name you won't see in the headlines, but who is truly extraordinary in every sense of the word. Earlier this year, my good friend Dr. Herb Cheever, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at South Dakota State University (SDSU), announced that he would retire.

Dr. Cheever grew up in Brookings, South Dakota and received his undergraduate degree from SDSU. After earning his doctorate from the University of Iowa and teaching in Kansas and Wisconsin, Dr. Cheever returned to his alma mater. He and his wife Sydna raised three boys in Brookings—Jason, Michael and Gene—and Herb and Sydna have long been tireless advocates of the arts in our state.

South Dakota State University is a wonderful school. Its reputation for academic excellence and cutting edge research is known across the country. Dr. Cheever is to be commended for the critical role he played in the development of the University, but he should also be recognized for his commitment to the things one can't measure by a standardized test.

Dean Cheever is a passionate believer in the importance of public service.