

it would be in Egypt's best interest to immediately release Saad Eddin Ibrahim, a dual American-Egyptian citizen who is in prison for the "crime" of advocating political reforms.

So far we have not debated in the Senate on the Foreign Operations appropriations bill for the 2003 fiscal year. And it now looks like we may not even have the opportunity to address it at all before the end of this Congress.

But, let me serve notice to my colleagues that when the Senate takes up the Foreign Operations bill next year that I plan to bring up the issue of political reform in Egypt and ask that we take a closer look at U.S. aid to that nation.

In fact, I have already drafted an amendment that would modify current law to expand the understanding that in providing assistance, the United States expects both economic and political reform be undertaken in Egypt.

I very much look forward to this debate.●

RETIREMENT OF CECIL WILLIAMS—AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF ARKANSAS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the long and great career of Cecil Williams, who spent a life's work fighting on behalf of farmers and the farming way of life in my home State of Arkansas.

Cecil is retiring, after leading the Agricultural Council of Arkansas for 37 years. He joined the organization in 1965 and set to work immediately doing everything he could to make a better world for the thousands of farm families that have made their livelihoods out of the fertile soil of Arkansas. Since then, he has played a central role in many, many achievements: passage of important check-off programs for the cotton, rice, soybean, and corn industries; creation of the Producers Steering Committee within the National Cotton Council; the implementation of better insurance protection for Arkansas farmers, just to name a few.

Over the years, he has seen many things come and go—economic crises, overwhelming floods and endless droughts, farm bill after farm bill, and, yes, he has seen many politicians come and go, too.

He has also seen a lot of changes and a lot of problems that won't seem to go away: higher farm costs against ever lower commodity prices, urban and suburban sprawl that increasingly compete for land resources, a slow but continual rise in the average age of farmers.

Through it all, Cecil Williams has fought, tooth and nail, for Arkansas's farmers. He has fought with grit and determination, with passion and loyalty. He has fought with heart and with every bead of sweat he could give. He is a company man who has endured almost as long as the company. And through the years, he has quietly but surely built a career that stands as an

inspiration for all of us who believe in production agriculture. I suppose he is not old enough to be the father of Arkansas agriculture, but he certainly has been its guardian. And he has served it well.

I have known Cecil for many years, first as the daughter of a rice farmer in the Arkansas Delta, and for the past 10 years as a Senator and congresswoman. Through two farm bills and through countless attacks on the foundation of America's farm policy, I have relied on Cecil's counsel and wisdom. His advice has always been sound, always deeply rooted in a respect and admiration for the people we both serve. He has never let us down.

And, now, on his retirement, it is my fervent hope that we who inherit his years of dedication and service will preserve and perpetuate his example, that we do not let him down.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARY JANE BRANNON

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, Mary Jane Crump Brannon graduated from Huntingdon College in 1937 with majors in biology and English, and a minor in French. She received her Master of Arts degree from the University of Alabama in 1938 in Parasitology. She did further graduate work at the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois. She completed her Ph.D. in Parasitology at Tulane University in 1943. She was the mother of seven children, and taught biology at her alma mater for forty years.

She began teaching at Huntingdon in 1956, and taught full-time until 1986, and part-time for ten more years. During much of this time and during the time I was a student at Huntingdon, she was head of the Biology Department. After her retirement she ran an Elderhostel program for Huntingdon College and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Those are the facts about Dr. Brannon and her career, but they do not begin to hint at the many lives she touched while teaching at Huntingdon. She was a great teacher, brilliant scientist, and incredibly committed to the betterment of her students.

Every student who studied advanced biology at Huntingdon during those 40 years knew Dr. Brannon, and she knew them and took an interest in them. They overlooked her difficulty with names—"Please answer question number seven Joe-Charlie-Sally-whatever your name is, child..."—because they knew she *cared* about them, and because she really wanted them to learn biology. She was very demanding of her students, but none were afraid of her; they knew she would do her best to teach them.

Pre-med students all looked to her for advice in getting into medical school. One student wanted to go to Tulane Medical School, but could not afford it. Dr. Brannon and the Chairman of the Tulane Admissions Com-

mittee were friends, and she called him. After their conversation Tulane offered that student a full tuition scholarship. Scholarships to medical school were even rarer than they are now!

It would be difficult to count the number of students she helped get into graduate or professional school, but in 1983 she had taught 56 Doctors of Medicine or Osteopathy, seven dentists, and dozens of biologists. In 1983 alone, eleven Huntingdon graduates were admitted to medical school, out of a graduating class of less than 200! Many of these owed their acceptance into medical, dental, or graduate school to her advice, or to having her "pull strings" with directors of admission. Huntingdon's 89% acceptance rate to medical school was in large part due to her teaching and leadership.

Dr. Brannon followed the lives of her former students closely, and every year she contacted them in person or by mail. They all looked forward to the "Biology Christmas Letter" to find out what their college friends were doing currently. She served as a hub for information about classmates and the college. Dr. Brannon, by her loyalty to Huntingdon College caused her students to recognize the uniqueness of the school, and to be loyal also. When I attended Huntingdon College, everyone knew there was no more talented, hardworking or loyal student than those in the biology department. They were a special group. They reflected her values.

Students went to Dr. Brannon with their personal problems, too. One student, who now has a Ph.D. in chemistry, tells of going to Dr. Brannon for advice about her boyfriend, who had proposed. "I remember seeking her advice, which was practical, insightful, and blunt, when a guy asked me to marry him my last year at Huntingdon. She told me if I were going to get a Ph.D., that particular guy would not be a good match intellectually, etc. She told me there would be plenty of guys who would want to marry me later on after I received my Ph.D. She encouraged me to get my education first, which was a bold statement from a teacher to a female student in the 1970s."

She was always arranging field trips for her students to take—trips to research labs, to the medical and dental schools, or to wilderness areas of Alabama. She planned and coordinated an annual trip to Panama City, Florida, right after the end of the school year so that students could gather biological specimens. It was also so they could have a little fun, but she was their chaperone, and nobody dared misbehave! She always gave a nighttime lecture and demonstration on bioluminescence, showing us the "things in the Gulf that glow in the dark."

Every semester, for every class that she taught, Dr. Brannon invited the entire class over to her home for dinner. She did this for more than 30 years,