

conservative. In a private letter, Bill Buckley commented that Herter was "a reminder of how civilized the world used to be."

There is a gap: no scholar has yet written a definitive biography about Chris Herter's multi-faceted contribution to history and the public welfare. His gigantic stature, both in size and character, will always remind us that moral and intellectual integrity can flower even in American politics.

PINEY WOODS OPRY IN ABITA SPRINGS, LA, RECEIVES ARTS ENDOWMENT GRANT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, there have been many articles and commentaries about the National Endowment for the Arts in recent months. Opponents have complained that the Endowment supports elitist institutions and elite audiences. But a recent story on the CBS Evening News describes a different and more accurate example of the Endowment's role—a grant made to Piney Woods Opry in Abita Springs, LA.

This grant from the NEA, totalling \$14,900, enabled the Opry to present performances of local musical folklore from the Depression era. The performances entertain the citizens of Abita Springs, and they will preserve this important part of America's musical heritage.

This success story, and thousands of others like it across the country, reveal the true mission of the Arts Endowment. Large corporations and wealthy donors are unlikely to fund these programs, but the Arts Endowment does. Mary Howell of Piney Woods Opry explained why:

When you ask why should the taxpayers want to support this kind of thing . . . Because it's about us. It's about every one of us.

I urge my colleagues to support the National Endowment for the Arts, and I ask unanimous consent that a transcript of this segment from the CBS Evening News may be printed in the RECORD.

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

[Transcript from the CBS Evening News, Mar. 31, 1995]

POSSIBLE BUDGET CUTS TO NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS CAUSE CONCERN FOR PINEY WOODS OPRY

CONNIE CHUNG, co-anchor. In the huge federal budget, \$170 million may not seem like much, but that's the 1995 budget for the National Endowment for the Arts. Some members of Congress think it should be zero. They call it a taxpayer subsidy for wacky or tacky artists who play to a cultural elite. Is that really where the money goes? John Blackstone has one case in point for tonight's Eye on America.

JOHN BLACKSTONE reporting. There was a time when Saturdays across much of rural America sounded the way they still sound in Abita Springs, Louisiana.

Unidentified ANNOUNCER: From the town hall in beautiful Abita Springs, the Piney Woods Opry.

BLACKSTONE. Piney Woods Opry never fails to draw an overflow crowd, though the songs and the sentiment are distinctly out of fashion.

(Excerpt from Opry performance)

BLACKSTONE. The musicians, often in their 60s and 70s, are among the last practitioners of a disappearing musical style.

Mr. BOB LAMBERT (Evening Star String Band): This is a true American music, and I think somewhere along the line, they're going to appreciate it again.

BLACKSTONE: The local congressman was invited here tonight, but he didn't come. He's a busy man these days, the new Republican chairman of the budget-cutting House Appropriations Committee, and one of the budgets he's busy cutting could have an impact right here.

Representative BOB LIVINGSTON (Republican, Louisiana): All we're trying to do is trying to bring common sense and sanity to the United States federal budget.

BLACKSTONE: Congressman Bob Livingston is bringing down the budget ax on federal funding for the arts, particularly the National Endowment for the Arts.

Rep. LIVINGSTON: We're going to be making drastic cuts, because we're going to be looking toward a balanced budget by the year 2002, and NEA has to prove that, you know, it is affordable.

BLACKSTONE: But ironically, Livingston is calling for cuts just as the Piney Woods Opry, right in his own district, is due to receive its first grant from the NEA, \$14,900.

Mr. LAMBERT: I don't want to get into politics but for the little bit that we have got, I don't think anybody could be complaining about that.

BLACKSTONE: Among the new Republican majority in Congress, money for the arts is called welfare of the cultural elite. Is this the cultural elite we're going to be seeing?

Mayor BRYAN GOWLAND (Abita Springs, Louisiana): Why, I wouldn't call it the cultural elite. I don't know.

BLACKSTONE: Many of the folks who show up at the Piney Woods Opry remember the hard times and honest music of rural America.

Mr. LAMBERT: You know, I—I—I grew up in the Depression, and I—I—I know what hard times is all about.

BLACKSTONE: Admission to the Opry is just \$3 at the door. Producers say the music isn't commercial enough to charge much more. Without financial help to keep the show running and the recorders turning, they say these songs will soon be gone, along with those who play them.

Ms. MARY HOWELL (Co-producer, Piney Woods Opry): We could lose our history. And it seems to me that that's when you ask why should the taxpayers want to support this kind of thing? I think that's why, because it's about us. It's about every one of us.

BLACKSTONE: Lauren Kilgore sings the songs her father taught her.

Ms. LAUREN KILGORE (Singer): (Singing) Grandpa, everything is changing fast.

BLACKSTONE: While the budget cutters sharpen their ax, the folks at the Piney Woods Opry say the value of this music can't be measured in dollars . . .

Ms. KILGORE: (Singing) . . . families rarely bow their heads to pray and daddies really never go away.

BLACKSTONE: . . . it can only be felt. In Abita Springs, John Blackstone for Eye on America.

IN HONOR OF HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to add my voice to those of my distinguished colleagues in the Senate to pay tribute to our colleague, Senator HOWELL HEFLIN of Alabama who announced his intention to retire from the Senate at the end of this Congress.

I too will miss him, not only as a U.S. Senator, but as a very dear friend.

The Senate will not be the same without HOWELL HEFLIN. He brought the highest dignity, integrity, and diligence to this body along with his unique sense of humor.

Mr. President, he is a big man with a big heart; his life is marked with patriotism and service to mankind; clearly HOWELL HEFLIN has led an unselfish life dedicated to leading and helping people. He was twice wounded in World War II as a marine captain while leading his troops in battle on Guam. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and the Silver Star for bravery. As a young trial lawyer in Alabama, he was known as one of the best. His reputation as an excellent lawyer led to his eventual election as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. It just made sense that the "Judge" would eventually become a member of this distinguished body.

As a Member of the Senate, HOWELL HEFLIN brought great wisdom, and he used this wisdom for 13 years as a member of the Senate Ethics Committee and for two periods he served as its chairman. He has always fought for what was right for the country and for his constituents in Alabama. Mr. President, people may not agree with HOWELL HEFLIN's decisions all the time but they did respect them.

Mr. President, I could speak at length about HOWELL HEFLIN's many accomplishments. But for myself, I will always cherish the close friendship we have enjoyed over the years.

Mr. President, the Senate will never be the same without HOWELL HEFLIN. The people of Alabama and the people of this country have benefited from the service of the "Judge," one of the most outstanding Members to have served in this body. I look forward to working with him in the remaining months of the 104th Congress. My wife Millie and I wish both his lovely wife "Mike" and Judge HOWELL all of God's blessings. Mahalo for being such a good and faithful servant. Well done, Judge.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 1158, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1158) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending: