

Charlie Rose and I always knew, if we lost an important provision, Senator Heflin would put it back in, or if we could get a new provision, Senator Heflin could keep it in when the bill came to conference.

This year it was particularly true when you can credit Senator Heflin with killing the 5-percent penalty for loan peanuts which would have hurt every peanut farmer in this country.

It was fun to watch: When the debate got heated, if you saw Senator Heflin lean back in this chair, slowly push the plastic back on his cigar and begin to chew, you knew he was thinking and was about to close in for the kill—this year on the Republican Leadership that was seeking to decimate the program.

I know you are not fully happy with the program the way it turned out in the end, but we got one. And the challenge can be summed up with the remark that Senator Richard Lugar was heard to make after the farm bill conference: "In looking at this language, I can see that once again, Senator Howell Heflin has prevailed over those of us who sought to end the peanut program."

Senator Heflin, that is a fitting tribute.

Congratulations, and thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE KIKI DE LA GARZA

● Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable KIKI DE LA GARZA.

There is nobody in the U.S. Congress more deserving of a tribute than the distinguished and longtime chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and defender of rural America and family farms.

KIKI DE LA GARZA began his elected public service with six terms in the Texas House of Representatives and was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964. KIKI was immediately appointed to the Agriculture Committee and has served as the committee chairman since 1981. As a matter of fact, KIKI was the first Hispanic American to head-up a standing committee of the House of Representatives. KIKI DE LA GARZA is very proud of his Hispanic heritage, and with good reason. KIKI can trace his ancestry back to one of the ruling families of Spain and to one of the earliest settlers of Texas. Don Martin de Leon and his wife, Dona de la Garza, petitioned the Spanish Governor in San Antonio for the right to establish a permanent settlement in Texas long before Moses Austin had received permission. KIKI is also proud of his Alabama ancestry, as he often reminds me that he can trace some of his forebears to Etowah County, AL.

During his tenure as committee chairman, KIKI DE LA GARZA has successfully guided the passage of three omnibus farm bills. He is also responsible for a major overhaul of the agricultural lending system, Federal crop insurance reform, reorganization of the USDA, and reforms in pesticide laws. Chairman DE LA GARZA has also brought special attention to rural development and the needs of rural families. He has fought tirelessly for rural development programs such as rural waste and water systems. Through this

strong commitment and leadership on behalf of rural America, his efforts were recognized with the establishment of an empowerment zone in south Texas, one of only three in rural America.

I recall working closely with KIKI DE LA GARZA over the years. We have worked many long hours together to restructure the Farm Credit System and provide disaster assistance when our Nation's producers have suffered from drought and other natural disasters. However, what comes to mind when I think of KIKI DE LA GARZA is his invaluable leadership in defense of the peanut program. It may come as a surprise to some, but the peanut program is vitally important to Alabama and I have personally fought hard to preserve this program. Had it not been for Chairman DE LA GARZA, though, we would not have been able to maintain this program that is also an integral part of Texas agriculture. Many were the occasions that I came to KIKI and I told him that I needed his help and without fail, we were able to hold off efforts to eliminate the peanut program. For this, I am deeply grateful to KIKI.

As KIKI DE LA GARZA leaves Congress and returns to Texas, we are truly witnessing the end of an era. KIKI DE LA GARZA has outlasted Bob Poage, Herman Talmadge and Jamie Whitten to become the dean of American Agriculture. Rural America has had no stronger advocate than KIKI DE LA GARZA, he has indeed been the champion of the small farmer.

When KIKI and his wife, Lucille, return to Texas, they will return home to Mission, Mission, TX, is known for producing famous Texans, among them include Tom Landry and Lloyd Bentsen. However, none have contributed more to improving the lives and living conditions of all Americans. Congress will indeed be a different place next year and it will sorely miss the wisdom and leadership of KIKI DE LA GARZA.

From the beginning, man has been at work in agriculture. In Genesis Chapter 3, Verse 23, Moses writes, "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the Ground from whence he was taken". Although there are tremendous challenges that lie ahead, the Sun shall rise tomorrow, and we can bear fruit for our neighbors and friends and those who are without nourishment. As we strive to feed a growing population, protect our environment, and keep farmers and ranchers strong, I am confident that with God's guidance, those who rely upon him will succeed. We have all been blessed to have had the wisdom and leadership of KIKI DE LA GARZA. As Americans we are all better for his service to this great country. As KIKI and his wife, Lucille return home, as Mike and I are returning home, we wish them both the very best for many years to come. It has been my honor to have served with KIKI DE LA GARZA.●

THANKS TO STAFF

● Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, on the last day the Senate was in session, October 4, I stood on the floor and briefly thanked my staff members for all their hard work over the years. At that time, I had a list of their names, hometowns, and date of joining our staff inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I also said that later, I would make additional comments about each of those.

As I said, it is easy to take staff for granted. Much of what they do is carried out in such a way that we might not be aware always of what they are doing. But they put in long hours just like we do. They are dedicated not only to us, but to the States we serve. My staff has helped thousands of Alabamians and other citizens with problems, questions, projects, and other general concerns.

I have been fortunate to have many long-time staff members who have been with me for many years, some since my first year in the Senate. Others have not been here as long, but have still made valuable contributions. Most have come from Alabama or had some connection to the State, such as being an alumnus of a university there, but others have come from the Washington area or other parts of the east coast.

I am proud of my staff, both here in Washington and in the four State offices. They have done an outstanding job for the Senate, for the State of Alabama, and for the Nation and I thank all of them and wish them well as they retire or move on to new career opportunities. I would now like to say a few words about each of those who are still serving with us during these final weeks of my term.

STEVE RABY

Heading up my Washington staff is Steve Raby, my administrative assistant. Over the years, Steve has been a tireless worker and voice for the State of Alabama and the Nation. He has superb judgment and unsurpassable ability to motivate workers under his supervision. He first joined my staff in January 1984 as a legislative assistant focusing on agriculture and rural development policy. In 1987, he became my administrative assistant, responsible for legislative and political matters affecting Alabama. Steve was born in Huntsville, AL, and received his bachelors and masters degrees from Auburn University. I have accused him numerous times of filling my staff with Auburn graduates so he could have more support in the Auburn-Alabama football rivalry. Prior to joining my staff, Steve worked as a research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta analyzing economic indicators of regional economy. Steve is married to the former Denise Cole. They have two sons—Nathan and Keenan. I predict a great future for him in anything he undertakes, including politics.

WINSTON LETT

As ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative