

missed by every Member of this Chamber. I wish him all the best as he returns to his home State of Oregon and resumes his career in education, and I thank him for his dedicated service to this body and the Nation.

SENATOR BILL BRADLEY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to the senior Senator from New Jersey, BILL BRADLEY, who has, unfortunately, decided to retire from the Senate after three terms.

BILL BRADLEY has brought to the Senate a keen mind and an athlete's drive to cut through highly complicated, but vital issues affecting the economy of the United States, especially the Tax Code's treatment of the middle class, and the need to eliminate the accumulation of deductions and special interest provisions which have skewed our tax code in multifarious and unfair ways.

In tackling the most vexing and wide-ranging problems affecting the economy, Senator BRADLEY had a central impact on the Tax Reform Act of 1986 after 4 years of hard work, perseverance, and studious attention to these very difficult issues. Using the springboard of his seat on the Finance Committee to grind away at his colleagues and the Senate as a whole as to the need for basic reform of the Tax Code, BILL showed that he could go the extra mile, and through sheer determination use the legislative process in textbook fashion. He produced far-reaching proposals on issues that have made a real difference for Americans, based on careful study and on convincing the rest of us to stand up, pay attention, and support the soundness of his position.

He has tackled a variety of other tough and central problems facing American society, including deficit reduction, pension reform, college loan programs, Medicaid reform, and a variety of initiatives in the energy area through his active membership on the Senate Energy Committee. In addition, he has been extremely industrious as a legislator on a wide range of issues in the education field, from community-based initiatives involving families, to reform of higher education. BILL BRADLEY has gone much further than legislative initiatives, however. He has sponsored a number of enduring seminars and special programs for high school and college students and athletes, all with a dual focus on effective citizenship and educational excellence.

Senator BILL BRADLEY added his engaging personality, integrity, and studious manner to the mosaic of the Senate, and gave this body another dimension. His unique background as a Rhodes Scholar, and as a former professional basketball player turned U.S. Senator sent a message to our young people that intellectual and athletic excellence need not be two competing worlds.

In all his work in the Senate, BILL has performed with dignity, grace, and

with great respect for the opportunity that the Senate affords for informed debate. Unfortunately, informed debate has not always been a great hallmark of recent years in the Senate, and I regret that this body will no longer have the benefit of BILL BRADLEY's keen mind and tenacious, yet gentlemanly approach to the issues of our day.

Senator BRADLEY is a young, vibrant, vigorous man with, God willing, a long span of productive years ahead of him. I am pleased to note that he has recently been writing and speaking out on a variety of fundamental issues concerning the Nation, including race relations; the need for a more responsible civil society where grassroots and local institutions assume more responsibility for our civic life; on the need for campaign finance reform; on the need for economic transformation and growth more fairly shared across the full range of economic groups in American society; and on the role of faith in the fabric of American society. Of particular interest is his comparison of American society with a three-legged stool made up of the private sector, government, and civil society. Obviously Senator BRADLEY is correct when he points out that our future depends on all three.

BILL BRADLEY is an independent, and thoughtful thinker on some of the most fundamental issues confronting our Nation.

Senator BRADLEY has focused his considerable mental powers well on a broad landscape of difficult problems which will trouble our Nation in the years ahead.

The breadth of issues on BILL BRADLEY's plate clearly shows that he intends to make an indelible mark on the continuing American dialogue about solutions to these problems, and I, for one, encourage him and look forward to his contribution. It would not surprise me to see citizen BILL BRADLEY at the witness table at future Senate hearings giving us his views on many fundamental issues.

I wish BILL and his wife, Ernestine, the best as he departs from this latest stopping place in his varied and successful life, knowing that there is much more to come, and with the hope that he will return frequently to include the Senate in his personal quest for a better America.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BRADLEY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to Senator BILL BRADLEY's distinguished service in the U.S. Senate.

From his election to the Senate in 1978, BILL BRADLEY has influenced the policymaking agenda in Washington by plunging into the intricacies of an impressive array of interests and learning the strengths and weaknesses of his opponents' arguments better than they did. His sheer intellectual dominance of issues has allowed him to succeed against the political odds on issues as

far-ranging as tax reform and water-use policy.

Senator BRADLEY has been a true leader on tax reform and fiscal responsibility. He was an early and persistent voice urging us to put our fiscal house in order. If we had had more BILL BRADLEY's in the Senate in the early 1980's, we could have avoided the deficits of the Reagan era and subsequent years that have left us with our enormous national debt. Last year, I was privileged to work closely with BILL BRADLEY in putting together a fair share budget plan that would have balanced the unified Federal budget. His advice was absolutely central to developing the specifics of the plan and bringing together a coalition of supporters.

In 1986, BILL BRADLEY almost single-handedly pushed through a tax reform bill that dramatically reduced the number and size of tax loopholes, gave middle-class American families tax relief, and greatly simplified the Tax Code. Since joining the Finance Committee, I have had the opportunity of working with BILL on tax policy, and his knowledge of the intricacies and politics of our Tax Code is truly astounding. We will sorely miss his knowledge on these issues as we consider tax issues in the future.

Senator BRADLEY has also been a courageous voice on other issues that many politicians choose to avoid. For example, he has been one of a very few Members of Congress to move beyond sound bites and talk honestly and directly about the issue of race in America. And he was a strong voice criticizing those who seek to use race to divide us for political purposes.

Senator BRADLEY also devoted a great deal of time to foreign policy. Whenever a complex foreign policy issue forced itself upon the Senate, it seemed like BILL had found time to think through the options and U.S. and regional interests involved.

In short, Mr. President, BILL BRADLEY has been an intellectual giant in the Senate. The U.S. Senate is losing a champion for average American families and particularly for the least fortunate among us. But I do not doubt that he will continue these fights. As he said when he announced his decision not to seek reelection, there are other places where he can put his skills to work making our country better and stronger. I wish him well as he seeks out the best place and way to continue his calling to public service.

Mr. BIDEN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to proceed for up to 10 minutes as if in morning business.

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

SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise this morning to speak not to an issue but to speak to a man—about a man.