

great ones—and you don't need to be all broke out in brilliance to know that. Thank you DALE BUMPERS and good luck! I yield the floor.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR DIRK KEMPTHORNE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, six years seems too short a time for a man of DIRK KEMPTHORNE's character to serve in the United States Senate. In the two years that I have been privileged to work with the Senator from Idaho, I have been impressed by both his considerable integrity and also his unwavering dedication to the citizens of Idaho and to his fellow countrymen. When I reflect upon Senator KEMPTHORNE's tenure in the Senate, I will remember the traits that made him such a successful legislator. I will especially remember the thoughtful approach the Senator used when addressing the pressing issues of the day. When Senator KEMPTHORNE chose a course of action, every Senator could be certain that his decisions were guided by careful deliberation, broad consultation, and sincere prayer. Now, Senator KEMPTHORNE has decided to return to his people of Idaho, offering to serve their interests closer to home. Selfishly, I and others will miss his quiet strength, his leadership in a pinch, his good judgment, and his deep faith. It has enriched all who have had the privilege of serving with him and, I must say, it has been a special source of strength to me. DIRK not only talks the talk, he walks the walk. His concern is for the least among us and his insights are superior. Whether he is in a small group meeting, a committee hearing, a leadership conference, a Bible study, or on the floor of the United States Senate, DIRK KEMPTHORNE always reveals himself to be a man of integrity. This is so because he is one solid whole. He does not compartmentalize. What you see is what you get, from the surface to the center.

DIRK has called us to higher things than mere public policy. He wants our government to make us better, not just richer and more powerful. His service in the Senate has been to that goal. He is both a humble servant of a higher calling, and an effective leader. We will miss that leadership and strength on issue after issue. We will miss even more his good example, his living proof that one can serve in public life and possess the richest qualities of a Christian gentleman. DIRK, we will miss you. You have made us better by your word, your manner, and your life. Our best wishes go with you. Godspeed DIRK KEMPTHORNE.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR WENDELL FORD

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, since taking my oath of office in January of 1963, I have had the high privilege of serving with 323 senators. Among them were some of the giants we read about

in history books, Richard Russell of Georgia, Everett Dirksen of Illinois, Mike Mansfield of Montana, and John Stennis of Mississippi.

I have served with men and women of great moral strength and high intellect, but, of the 323 senators, I shall always look upon one person as my "best friend"—Senator WENDELL FORD.

How does one become a best friend of a stranger? I had some knowledge of WENDELL before he was elected, because I was then a member of the Senate Campaign Committee and serving as the Secretary of the Democratic Caucus. I knew that he was a former State Senator, Lieutenant Governor, and the 49th Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky before he was elected to the Senate. I also knew that he was one of the most popular Presidents of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

When I first met WENDELL in early 1974, I immediately liked what I saw.

I could see that he was "truth in packaging" personified. There were no fancy frills, or bells, or ribbons around him. He was down to earth. He obviously loved his constituents and without question, understood them. Immediately, I concluded that he was a "man of the people." Soon, I found myself serving with him on two important Committees—the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Whenever he stood and raised his voice to defend, advocate, oppose, or support a measure, you knew that it related to people.

Therefore, I was not surprised when he became the prime mover of the National Voter Registration Act which would ensure that every American who was of age, qualified and wanted to vote was given the opportunity to do so. He took away all of the obstacles that stood in their path.

He also made certain that when a worker's spouse was ill at home, he or she was given the right to be with their loved ones in their time of great need. He knew what it was to be a husband and a father. And he knew what it meant to comfort wives and children in time of need. When WENDELL became the Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, first and foremost on his agenda was passenger safety.

He was always ready to carry the banner for the working man and woman. And during the recent tobacco legislation debates, WENDELL's voice was one of the very few that spoke out for the tobacco farmer. His concern was not for the wealthy Chief Executive Officers. His concern was for the poor farmer who had to struggle, day in and day out, to eke out a livelihood.

WENDELL also spoke out for the miners who worked in the deep coal mines, and for those who had been discriminated against in employment because of their age. He was a "work horse," never a "show horse." When others would give eloquent speeches on cut-

ting the cost of government, he did something about it. He led the movement to adopt a two-year budget, thereby saving millions of dollars by streamlining our budgetary process.

He introduced the measure that is responsible now for using recycled printing paper by the federal government, thus saving millions of dollars. After all, the paperwork of the federal government today, with all the technological advances, still uses more than 480,000 tons of paper annually. However, before WENDELL FORD got into the act, it was nearly double that amount.

As a politician, he wanted to make certain that campaigns were carried out without corruption and without impediments. He streamlined voter registration procedures, and did everything to increase voter participation in federal elections.

WENDELL FORD's departure from the Senate will leave a huge void in the committee rooms and in the Senate Chamber. It is difficult for me to imagine that next year we will not hear his voice rising to defend the working man and woman.

We will not hear his voice to insist upon safety for our traveling public. And we will not hear his voice for good and clean government. I hope that the people of Kentucky will someday come to the realization that they and the people of this nation were blessed with the service of WENDELL FORD.

Winston Churchill just prior to his retirement from active government service said, "Service to the community is the rent we pay for living on this earth." WENDELL FORD has been paying his rent throughout his life.

It will be difficult for me to say goodbye to my good friend. It will be difficult no matter how good a person his successor may be, to fill his "huge boots."

But most importantly, I agree with my wife, Maggie, that what makes WENDELL a good husband, a good father, and decent human being is the fact that he had the good sense to marry his beloved Jean. Without Jean, Kentucky and our nation would have been denied the great service of WENDELL H. FORD.

WENDELL and Jean, you have my best wishes for continued happiness and fulfillment in the bright years ahead. We shall miss you immensely.

RETIREMENT OF SENATORS

WENDELL FORD

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to honor Senator WENDELL FORD for his long and distinguished record of service in the United States Senate.

A vigorous defender of his home state, WENDELL FORD's raspy voice has spoken out for the people of Kentucky and the entire nation with intelligence, tenacity and humor, winning him the respect and affection of his colleagues.