

Adlai Stevenson III to serve on the State Rent Control Board.

Senator Hall's primary concern was always to his community, and he served for 28 years as a Democratic Precinct Committeeman. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives where he served two terms, and in 1970 was elected to the Illinois State Senate. Five years after election to the State Senate, he became the first black Assistant Majority Leader. During his 25 years in the Illinois Senate, he served on several committees including the Education, Veteran's Affairs, Executive committees, and served as Chairman of the Appropriation II Committee until 1992. His legislative agenda reflected his primary interests in helping the poor and disenfranchised. He firmly believed that government should play a role in helping those who cannot help themselves. He strongly supported education as a way out of poverty.

Those who knew Senator Hall remember him for his unflinching graciousness, and the way he cared about the people in his district. He was in many legislative battles during his career, but he was never disagreeable. He will be remembered most for his integrity and his honesty, and for the way he always had time for people.

He was an inspiration to many in his community, pushing them to find the best in themselves. East St. Louis Mayor Gordon Bush called Senator Hall a "pioneer for racial harmony, and people living together as God's children".

State Senator Kenneth Hall's career epitomizes what is best about public service. President Kennedy once said about politics as a profession, "* * * if you are interested, if you want to participate, if you feel strongly about any public question, * * * governmental service is the way to translate this interest into action, the natural place for the concerned citizen is to contribute part of his life to the national interest". Kenneth Hall was such a concerned citizen and he contributed a very large part of his life to the interest of his community, his state, and his country. In his own way he worked hard to make this world a better place. We could all learn something from his life.

I had the pleasure of working with Kenny in Springfield, when I was in the legislature. He was always helpful, and I always benefited from his counsel and advice.

Mr. President, Kenny was one of my mentors, and a shining light. His smile brightened every room and discussion he was in. He was tireless fighter and advocate who was never too busy to be kind. I will greatly miss him.

NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I recently had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Henry Foster, President Clinton's nominee for the position of Surgeon

General. I did so because, as a member of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, I will be called upon to cast one of the first votes on this nomination before it is brought to the floor of the Senate. And I wanted to know what kind of man this is, who has been demonized by some and canonized by others.

Mr. President, what I found before me was a man of substance, who has worked very hard all his life to achieve the kind of success that is neither materialistic nor public. Dr. Henry Foster was raised in the rural South at a time of segregation so intense that he was forced, even while in medical school, to drink from a separate water fountain. He suffered the indignities of segregation with the kind of dignity, intelligence, and vision that enabled him both to see that he could achieve something very important in his life—and to do it. He spoke of his father's teachings of the value of education and hard work, and he incorporated those values into everything he has done in his life.

Dr. Foster's credentials alone certainly render him a qualified candidate for Surgeon General. A practicing obstetrician-gynecologist for 38 years, Dr. Foster is also a medical educator who has devoted much of his professional life to reducing infant mortality and preventing teen pregnancy. He has served as both Dean of the School of Medicine and acting President of Meharry Medical College in Nashville—one of the Nation's most prominent historically black colleges. Dr. Foster is currently on sabbatical from Meharry and is scholar-in-residence at the Association of Academic Health Centers in Washington, DC. He has been the recipient of many awards and honors—too numerous to mention here—but ranging from induction into the Institute of Medicine to receiving a "Thousand Points of Light" award from President George Bush for his "I Have A Future" program that promotes self-esteem and positive life choices among at-risk teens.

But as has been pointed out by his detractors, qualifications alone may not be sufficient for a person to hold a position of leadership and trust in our government. Especially with a position attracting as much attention as Surgeon General, it is important that the person appointed be an example of the best that our country has to offer.

Mr. President, from what I know of Dr. Foster, and from what I expect the Labor Committee hearings to bring out, Dr. Foster is such a person. In addition to excellent academic and leadership qualifications, Dr. Foster has traveled an admirable path, in the early years forfeiting a life of great wealth in a more comfortable, ivory tower setting and returning to his roots—this time to poor, rural Alabama—to help an under-served population that needed his care. Since then, Dr. Foster has helped train the minds and influence the careers of hundreds of Meharry Medical College students,

many of whom have followed in Dr. Foster's footsteps.

While Dr. Foster's life and career have not been without their controversial moments, there are few, if any, individuals of prominence and principle in this country who have not experienced such moments in life. I have reviewed carefully the information available to me about those times in Dr. Foster's life and the actions that he took, and I have asked him about others. I am satisfied that Dr. Foster is telling the truth about discrepancies that arose shortly after his nomination was announced, and I am comfortable that Dr. Foster's actions can be explained in the context of both the times and the nature of his work.

While I realize that it is still possible to learn information that might raise questions or cause concern about Dr. Foster's suitability for this position, I must say that I doubt that this will occur. I have been most impressed by the strong support he has received from the medical community, from public health and social service advocates, and from many individuals—including several Rhode Islanders who have contacted me to say that they personally know and admire Dr. Foster.

Mr. President, it is my hope that prompt hearings can be held on Dr. Foster's nomination. I believe that the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, and its able Chairwoman, Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM, will hold fair, even-handed and comprehensive hearings on Dr. Foster's nomination. In my view, it is very much our duty to hold such hearings on any nominee forwarded to us by the President of the United States. As my colleagues know, I have voted to confirm many nominees of Presidents not of my own party, and I have voted to confirm numerous nominees who did not share my view of the world and who would not have been my choice. But I believe that every President deserves great deference in the choice of nominees and—at the least—deserves to have the Senate consider every nominee in a prompt fashion.

I urge my colleagues to meet and talk with Dr. Foster, and to discover a person of compassion, and humor, and dedication, whom I believe deserves the chance to serve his Nation.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES!

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, anyone even remotely familiar with the U.S. Constitution knows that no President can spend a dime of Federal tax money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

So when you hear politicians or editors or commentators declare that "Reagan ran up the Federal debt" or that "Bush ran it up," bear in mind that the Founding Fathers made it very clear that it is the constitutional