

The Board reiterates that any proposed exclusion should be supported with detailed and precise information and rationale sufficient to establish that exclusion is warranted under section 220(e)(1)(B) of the Act. For example, commentators should provide comprehensive and specific descriptions of job functions and responsibilities that they believe require exclusion of covered employees from coverage and explain precisely why the participation in an employee organization of an individual who had such tasks and responsibilities would interfere with Congress' constitutional responsibilities or present a conflict of interest. In the absence of such information and rationale, it will be difficult for the Board to determine whether covered employees in the specified offices should be excluded from enjoying the rights and protections of section 220, except as otherwise required by law or provided under any regulations issued pursuant to section 220(e)(1)(A).

The Board invites comment on the following specific questions:

1. What are the constitutional responsibilities of Congress that would require exclusion of employees from coverage under section 220 of the CAA? Similarly, what would constitute a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict that would require exclusion of employees from coverage under section 220 of the CAA?

2. Should determinations as to exclusion from coverage under section 220 be made on an office-wide basis or should they be based on performance of specified duties and functions in the referenced office?

3. In each individual office referenced in section 220(e)(2), what are the particular duties and functions of the specific positions that shall be excluded from coverage? What is the legal basis under the CAA for exclusion?

4. What exclusions, if any, are required under paragraph 220(e)(2)(H)? What are the "comparable functions" of any office so identified? What are the bases for exclusion of the specified office or of covered employees in the offices?

The Board reiterates that, in answering these questions, commentators should provide detailed legal and factual support for their proposals. Generalities and conclusory assertions will not suffice. Detailed information and authorities that address specific duties and functions of employees and offices, in rigorous and complete detail, are necessary to enable the Board to make appropriate determinations pursuant to the CAA's mandate.

GOODBYE TO THE HUNTSVILLE NEWS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Huntsville, AL's morning newspaper, the Huntsville News, will publish its last edition on Friday, March 15, 1996. The News was founded 32 years ago by local business people as a weekly, but became a daily paper within only a few months. In 1968, it was sold by the owners to Advance Publications, which also owns Huntsville's afternoon paper, the Huntsville Times.

The Huntsville News published its first edition on January 8, 1964. It introduced itself to its Rocket City readers with the headline: "New Communications Capsule Blasts Off." The original owners were James Cleary, a Huntsville attorney; John Higdon, the former manager of a local television

station; and Thomas A. Barr, an electrical engineer. The paper was printed on its own press, an offset press which was one of the most modern in the business. Less than 2 months after it began publishing, it went to a twice-weekly schedule, and in August 1964, it became a 6-day daily, publishing every day except Sunday.

Stoney Jackson was the first editor of the News. At one time, he was a contestant on "The \$64,000 Question" television quiz show, and became famous when he revealed cheating on the famous game show. Other editors were Sid Thomas, Hollice Smith, Dave Langford, Tom Lankford, and Lee Woodward, who has been editor since 1977. Ironically, Woodward, who first came to work for the paper in 1972, had already planned his retirement for this March before the announcement about the News.

Before he joined the News, Woodward, a native of Arab, AL, had worked for the Huntsville Times, the News Courier, Alabama Courier, and Limestone Democrat, all three newspapers published in Athens, where he grew up. He had also worked at the Gadsden Times. He is now serving as president of the Alabama Press Association and has been on the Alabama Newspaper Advertising Service Board of Directors. Altogether, he has enjoyed 42 years in the newspaper business.

I want to congratulate everyone who has been involved with the publication of the Huntsville News over the last 32 years, particularly the current editor, Lee Woodward, who has performed superbly in an exceedingly difficult position. The newspaper has been an authoritative source of information and insight into the issues and news of the day, and its loss is an extremely sad one for the Huntsville area. Its sharp writing, lucid clarity, and professional objectivity each morning will be sorely missed by its many readers. It has performed its mission well and leaves a tremendous journalistic legacy to the citizens of this vibrant area.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR RALPH SEARS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, long-time Montevallo, AL mayor Ralph Sears passed away on February 14, 1996 at the age of 73. A native of Nebraska, the young World War II veteran had come to Montevallo in 1948 to teach broadcasting courses at Alabama College, now the University of Montevallo. It was said that he had a golden voice, and he originally was lured to the south to teach a year or so and then move on. Thankfully for Montevallo, he never got around to moving on. Instead, he went on to serve for 16 years as a member of the city council and then for 24 years as mayor.

During his nearly half-century in his adopted city, Ralph Sears and his wife, Marcia, raised three children; opened radio station WBYE, located between Calera and Montevallo; and bought and

published two weekly newspapers, one of which was the Shelby County Reporter.

As mayor, he came to be seen as an uncommon friend to his constituents. He accomplished things which had a direct impact on their daily lives. He saw that tall horse-and-buggy curbs and crumbling sidewalks were replaced by lower curbs, handicap ramps, flowering trees in planters, and litter cans. He oversaw the building of a 40-acre park with ball fields, playgrounds, picnic tables, walking trail, gazebo, recreation building, and Scout hut. He worked with black citizens to devise a district voting system that assured their representation on the council years before a Federal court decision ordered municipal governments to take such action. Mayor Sears was also credited with constructing a sewage treatment plant and modern fire station.

He spent some fairly exciting times in the Pacific theatre during World War II. He served in Tokyo and in the Philippines with General Douglas MacArthur. He and Marcia would customarily travel around the world, to wherever news was breaking or about to break. They celebrated Alaska's statehood in Juneau; visited South Africa on the brink of revolution in 1986; and saw the other side of the Iron Curtain before glasnost turned it into rust.

Mayor Sears was active in the World Council of Mayors; past chairman of the Shelby County Mayors Association; and president of the Montevallo Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, and board of Shelby Youth Services.

Ralph Sears was truly an institution in Montevallo; he was involved in the city's educational, religious, news media, and, of course, its governing bodies. He was a gentleman's gentleman who believed deeply in the principles set forth in the U.S. Constitution. He was an honest, fair, and moral person—a progressive and a visionary who believed the American way was the right way.

At the time of his death, one of the projects he was working on was the establishment of a section of Montevallo as an Alabama Village. The State and the University of Montevallo are trying to create a community similar to Jamestown in Williamsburg, VA, and the city has committed funds to buy 115 acres for the project. Hopefully, this village will some day stand as a monument to his life and work.

I extend my sincerest condolences to the Sears family in the wake of its tremendous loss. His legacy is one that will last for many, many decades into the future.

TRIBUTE TO CIVIC LEADER HARRY MOORE RHETT, JR.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Harry Moore Rhett, Jr., a long-time community leader and member of one of Huntsville, Alabama's most prominent families, died on February 3, 1996 at his antebellum home in Huntsville.