

the reasons for his retirement now is the absence of any other person in this body with whom he could deal and interact in the way in which he did with our friend from New Hampshire, Warren Rudman. But Senator COHEN's wisdom and independence and thoughtfulness will be greatly and profoundly missed in this body.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HANK BROWN

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, you, Senator BROWN, happen to be the Presiding Officer as I come to the floor to make these remarks. You are the one Member whose decision not to return I can least understand. Senator BROWN has been a friend, recommended to me by one of his closest friends in the House of Representatives as his closest friend, during the course of this last 6 years. You, perhaps above all of us on this side of the aisle, have been absolutely unafraid to take a position which would gain you only a tiny handful of votes. I know how many times I have come back to you during a roll-call to inquire whether or not one of your amendments could reach double digits during the course of a rollcall. But it has been one of your great features—a willingness to say, "no," the conventional wisdom is not correct, the easy way out is not the right way to go; there is a different way, a way that is better for the American people, better for all of us, albeit more difficult.

I know there have been occasions—a few occasions at least—in which those views have been expressed with such eloquence that they have actually prevailed in this body, and there are a number of times in which you can say, with I hope most of us, that, "But for me, the final result would have been different, and we are better off for me having been here."

Your cheerfulness and happiness and your willingness to deal with adversity has, I think, been an inspiration to every single one of us in this body. I do have every hope that you will be successful in whatever lies ahead in your career. I do know that not just by this Senator, but I believe by all of your colleagues, you will be greatly and wonderfully missed.

One last point in that connection which I found, about a year and a half ago, to be particularly profound was your role in the very difficult decision made by my other seatmate, the junior Senator from Colorado, to change parties, and to come over to this side. I don't know whether he would have been able to bring himself to do that at the same time or in the same way had it not been for the constant encouragement, friendship, thoughtfulness, and guidance that you provided for him. That itself will be a part of your heritage, which will live in this body long after you have left it yourself.

I must say this will be a lesser place without you. I note that the majority

leader is now on the floor. I have several other talks like this to make about other Members, but for the time being, I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Republican leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Washington for yielding, and also for his very kind remarks.

DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, 14 of our colleagues will be retiring from the Senate at the end of this year. That is almost one-seventh of this body. Their departure represents a major turnover in the membership of the Senate, an institution which prizes itself on its continuity and its gradual pace of change.

With these 14 leaving, surely the Senate will be a different place next year. We have been enriched by these 14 Senators each in their own way, and in many ways over the years.

In the last 2 weeks it has been very hectic here, and I would have taken the floor earlier to comment about these distinguished Senators except for that very busy schedule. But I am glad now that I have the time to talk with a little leisure, and maybe even tell some special stories that I remember about some of these Senators. Each of them deserve special recognition.

I am glad so many Senators have spoken at length about those who will soon leave us. I went back and read several of the statements that were made Friday and Saturday, including some of the statements by Senators that will be leaving—particularly Senator COHEN of Maine. I found his remarks very interesting and enlightening, and typical of the Senator from Maine.

As everyone knows, the last few weeks have been an extraordinarily busy time. We have managed to deal with many items that have been stalled but most importantly we successfully pulled together the omnibus appropriations bill that will fund most of the Federal Government and direct many of its policies for years ahead. It wasn't easy for some Members and staff. It took literally weeks, and many of the Senators and staff members stayed up literally all night for 2 nights in a row. They did great work, and we are very proud of their work.

We are proud that we were able to complete our work last night in a bipartisan fashion. There was an overwhelming vote for that work product. I believe the vote was 84 to 15.

So now in the little time we have left in this 104th Congress I can finally get around to paying proper respects, although in an abbreviated form, to these distinguished Senators.

Senator BILL BRADLEY of New Jersey, for example, is widely expected to remain a force in our national politics. That is a tactful way of saying he is too impressive to ignore and too young to be relegated to the political hall of

fame. He spent 18 years in the Senate proving that a Rhodes scholar can play hardball when he has to—and disproving the old adage that Senators can't jump. We wish him well and know that, in more ways than one, we will be hearing from him over and over again.

As we are preparing to leave, one of the bills that is left is the so-called "parks bill." I found myself last night here in the well talking to the Senator from New Jersey. He was involved working with the Senator from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, to find a way to get that one last bill done. He last left his mark on this institution, and his mark on some outstanding legislation. And we look forward to working with him in a different role in the future.

Of course, my good friend sitting in the Chair this morning, Senator HANK BROWN of Colorado, leaves us far too soon after only one term in the Senate.

I remember very well receiving his call—I believe it was 2 years ago right after we had the election. In fact, I was running for a position myself at the time. And he was giving me suggestions. But he also wanted me to know. "And, by the way, I am leaving." I almost passed out. I could not believe it. I cannot envision serving in the Congress without HANK BROWN. He is just one of the most insightful Members I have ever known—brilliant in a very modest way.

I really do wish we had time to get him on the Finance Committee because his hand on the tax policy of this country would have been a wonderful sight to behold.

I remember that several of the things I have done over the years, that probably have gotten me into more trouble than I wanted, had been suggested by HANK BROWN. I will not forget my friend from Colorado. We surely will miss HANK, and we know that, again like the others, we will be hearing from him, and that his insightful intellectual integrity and his unfailing courtesy will continue to serve him well as he goes back to his beloved Colorado.

Senator BILL COHEN seems also far too young, both in years and in spirit, to have served in Congress for 24 years. Senator COHEN of Maine, Senator COCHRAN of Mississippi, and I were sworn in together as Members of the House of Representatives in 1973. We all have been together really ever since, even though the two of them came over to the Senate in 1978 and I didn't come over. I trailed along 10 years later. We have been through some incredible experiences together.

I have grown over the years to just come to admire and respect BILL COHEN so much. On the Armed Services Committee we are not just colleagues but comrades. We worked together to advance our Nation's security. We have a common interests in the magnificent cruisers and destroyers that defend our shores so well.

BILL COHEN turned out to be a novelist and a poet. He even published a book of poems. I mean, can you imagine? Most people would do well to write