

cranes, brown pelicans, and the peregrine falcon have come back from near extinction.

The bald eagle has increased from a low of 400 nesting pairs in 1963 to just over 4,700 pairs in 1995. Think of it. In the Continental United States, the lower 48 States, as they say, there were only 400 nesting pairs of bald eagles in 1963. Thirty-two years later—in 1995—there are now 4,700 nesting pairs. Remarkable.

The grizzly bear has been saved from extinction and brought back from the endangered list to the threatened list. The California gray whale and American alligator have recovered to the point where they have been removed from the endangered list.

Of the 960 species currently listed on the endangered species list, more than 40 percent are stable and gaining ground. And for many others the rate of decline has been reduced.

The recovery of the striped bass is another success story. The striped bass is a magnificent fighting fish, one that has been valued up and down the Atlantic coast for centuries.

It is interesting to hear what the original settlers said, and what Capt. John Smith said in 1614, over 350 years ago. This is what he said about the striped bass. "I myself, at the turning of the tide, have seen such multitudes pass out of a pond that it seemed to me that one might go over their backs dryshod." There were so many it seemed you could walk across on their backs.

So it was with great alarm that we learned of the precipitous decline of the striped bass in the late 1970's. And, by 1983, commercial harvest had dropped by 77 percent as compared to the previous year. By 1983, the sports harvest of striped bass had declined by 85 percent from 4 years earlier. So we inaugurated an Emergency Striped Bass Study by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. I am proud to say that this legislation came out of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

And fewer than 20 years later, through the cooperative efforts of State fish and wildlife agencies and the Federal agencies, most Atlantic striped bass stocks have recovered to healthy pre-1979 levels. This dramatic turnaround is proof that, if we act quickly to reduce the threats and preserve habitat, we can recover imperiled species.

Wetlands loss has slowed dramatically. When it comes to wetlands conservation, perhaps no program has been as successful as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan—signed 11 years ago, in 1986, by the United States and Canada, and later, Mexico. Under this plan, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, partnerships are established bringing together Federal and local governments, and nonprofit groups such as Ducks Unlimited, and private donors, as well as landowners—to work on the conserva-

tion of wetlands, and there are Federal dollars to match private contributions.

To date, well over 4 million acres have been protected, restored, or enhanced—some of it through easement, and some of it through purchases by the United States and Canada. And 20 million additional acres are protected in Mexico.

Has it done any good? Listen to this: In 1996, there was the largest migration of waterfowl in the previous 40 years—89.5 million ducks, which is 7 million more than 2 years before, and 18 million more than the year before that migrated south for the winter; 90 million ducks, the largest migration in the past 41 years. That came about because of the North American Waterfowl Plan, which I mentioned before.

So it seems that the way that the plan operates, involving partnership between the States, the Federal Government, and private entities, it represents the wave of the future, which all of us ought to think about as we ponder how fast we can save these wetlands and wildlife habitat areas.

We are not done. We should not rest on our laurels. Some of the trickiest and most difficult environmental problems lie ahead, and we have to address these with purpose and ingenuity. We took on the formidable environmental challenges of the past and were successful. Now we look to the future. We shouldn't just rest on our laurels, as I said. We have to remember that these efforts can never succeed without strong and sincere bipartisan cooperation—Republicans and Democrats working together; Congress and the administration, likewise.

In conclusion, I just want to quote probably the greatest environmental President of them all, Teddy Roosevelt. This is what he said 86 years ago. "Of all the questions which can come before this Nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

Those are pretty good words for us to remember as we celebrate Earth Day in 1997—words to be considered while thinking of the future and preserving the environment for our children and grandchildren and those who come after us.

"HUMMON" TALMADGE HIGHWAY
BEING DEDICATED TOMORROW
IN HAMPTON, GA

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, tomorrow, down in Hampton, GA, a highway will be dedicated to one of our former colleagues, the distinguished former Senator Herman Talmadge. It would be fun to be there tomorrow and see Herman's reaction when the honor is announced at a luncheon in the ballroom of the Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Fewer than one-fourth (23) of today's Members of the Senate were here when Senator Talmadge was. Because of

that, I have decided to include in the RECORD an extensive interview with former Senator Talmadge published by The Macon, GA, Telegraph. That newspaper's Randall Savage conducted the interview.

Mr. Savage asked good questions and Herman Talmadge gave great answers. His assessment of many things about America reflect the fact that Herman Talmadge still has the good judgment that he possessed while in the Senate.

Mr. President, accordingly, I ask unanimous consent that the February 11, 1997, interview, headed "Hummon" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the interview was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Macon Telegraph, Feb. 11, 1997]

"HUMMON"

(By Randall Savage)

HAMPTON.—Former U.S. Sen. Herman E. Talmadge is 83 now.

He doesn't dip, smoke or chew anymore, although he's not above nibbling on a cigar now and then. A year ago, doctors removed a cancerous tumor from his throat, and he underwent 25 radiation treatments.

"They can't find any trace of it now," he said.

But Talmadge no longer runs two miles every day, as he did for more than 20 years. He gave that up five years ago, opting for brisk daily walks instead. Arthritis, however, had ended even those. The condition hinders his mobility, and he walks with a cane.

"I got to be an old man at 82. I was a young man until then," Talmadge said.

Nevertheless, Talmadge, one of Georgia's most powerful politicians, is as politically astute today as he was when he left the Senate 17 years ago. And he's still delighted to share his views on politics and the world:

Question. You held political office for more than 30 years as a Democrat. What do you think of the Democratic Party?

Answer. I think well of some of them and poorly of others. I think they helped the Republican Party gain power by continuing to push their liberal policies when the country was becoming more conservative.

Question. Do you still consider yourself a Democrat?

Answer. I guess you could classify me as an independent. I vote for the man or woman. For a number of years, Democrats—the national Democrats in particular—have become more and more liberal in their thinking and actions.

Question. How so?

Answer. Excessive taxes. Excessive spending. Excessive regulations. Excessive government.

Question. And you think the Democratic Party is involved too heavily in that?

Answer. Yes. The Republican takeover (of Congress) slowed down the Democrats. They'd been reacting to popular thinking instead of pursuing sound policies. They lean whichever way the wind is blowing.

Questions. What do you think of House Speaker Newt Gingrich?

Answer. I think you have to give Newt Gingrich credit with leading the Republican revolution that resulted in the Republicans taking over both houses of Congress. But I don't know what I think of him. I listen to him talk and I find myself agreeing with a lot of what he's saying. But he irritates me. When he gets through speaking, I'm irritated over what he said. I don't know why.

Question. The Republican takeover of Congress—what do you think of that?

Answer. Well, it remains to be seen. They slowed the expenditures of government. They made the Democrats pause and look and listen. In fact, the only reason (President) Clinton got elected the last time is because he foreclosed (GOP presidential hopeful Bob) Dole on all his issues. He took his issues away from him.

Question. You mean he adopted Sen. Dole's platform and turned it into his own? When we talked last week, you mentioned that you think Bill Clinton is the cleverest president since Franklin Roosevelt. Why do you say that?

Answer. He can turn it around on a dime, and nobody ever notices. I give that fellow (former presidential consultant Dick) Morris credit for that. President Clinton was talking about gays in the military and divisive things like that, and (Morris) takes over his campaign and turns it around 180 degrees. He took Dole's issues away from him, and he got elected on Dole's issues.

Question. What do you think of President Clinton's performance so far?

Answer. I'd give him a plus on some things, like turning away from his liberal policies and adopting basic conservative policies and getting elected.

Question. What are some minuses?

Answer. Shifting around and not having any strong opinions on anything.

Questions. What do you think of U.S. Sen. Paul Coverdell, the man who holds the seat you held so long?

Answer. I don't know Coverdell well. I've had two or three conversations with him. But I've been impressed with him. I check his voting record every week in the Sunday paper. I like the way he votes. Thus far, I think his voting record has been good. I agree with him more than 90 percent of the time. I think he's doing all right.

Question. What concerns you most about government in 1997?

Answer. Too much taxes. Too much regulation. Too much expenditure. Basically, the government does for people what they cannot do for themselves.

Question. What about society? What do you think of society in general?

Answer. It reminds me of the latter days of the Roman Empire. We have gotten away from faith and values, the things that made this country great. It's a sad commentary. Crime is rampant, and children are being born out of wedlock and looking to their government for support. There's declining morality and a lack of discipline all over the country.

Question. What should be done to turn things around?

Answer. We should have substitute fathers and mothers for these (parentless and single-parent) people. They could teach them values while they're young. The substitutes would be role models for them. They would have role models besides prostitutes and drug peddlers.

Question. How would you hook up youngsters with the substitutes?

Answer. It would take an organized effort on the part of all churches in the country, all of the governments in the country, all of the civic clubs in the country. It would be the most mammoth undertaking we've had in a long time. But it could save the country. It would take a long time. But a good start would be to save 50 children in Henry County (where Talmadge lives).

Question. You've had a few bouts with the news media. What do you think of the media?

Answer. They've adopted a new policy since World War II when I first started out in politics. They used to want to know why, who, where, what, when and how. Those were fundamental virtues of journalism. The jour-

nalism teachers instilled those fundamental virtues in their students. Now, they're prosecutors of anybody holding public office. A politician has to prove his innocence every day. (Media) treats everyone as if they're crooks.

Question. How is the world different today from what it was before you retired?

Answer. The collapse of communism has made it a different world. Freedom is beginning to be brought to all countries throughout the world, almost all of them. During my days in the Senate, we wondered what was going to prevail, communism or freedom.

Question. What are you most proud of?

Answer. My accomplishments as governor of the state of Georgia. I think Georgia made its greatest progress when I was governor. It became truly the Empire State of the South. It's been making progress since that time in building schools, protecting natural resources, building roads and bridges—you name it. We paved 10,000 miles of roads. We gave teachers a raise in salary of over 100 percent. We built new buildings. We built health centers and hospitals throughout the state. When I took office, the only hospitals we had in Georgia were a few in the larger cities. If a person had an accident in rural Georgia, they had to go to Macon or Savannah or Jacksonville, Fla., to get treatment. Now they're all over.

Question. If you were running for office today, what would your platform be?

Answer. It would be what I've always run on—economical government, service to the constituency and hard work.

Question. What advice would you give to anyone who'd listen?

Answer. Work hard and stay out of trouble. Save your money and make prudent investments. Take an Egyptian or Indian who comes to this country. They don't speak the English language, and they work for minimum wage. But they save half their money. In a few years, they're wealthy. They save their money and make prudent investments.

Once an avid hunter, Talmadge no longer pursues that sport because of his arthritic knees, but he spends many hours fishing in one of the five lakes near his home in Hampton. After he finished the interview, he sat down to rest in his leather recliner sitting between a portrait of himself on the rear wall and a portrait of his famous father, Gene Talmadge, over the mantel.

"Come see me in two or three months," Talmadge smiled and said. "When the weather warms up, we'll go fishing."

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 21, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,352,733,602,413.77. (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred thirty-three million, six hundred two thousand, four hundred thirteen dollars and seventy-seven cents.)

Five years ago, April 21, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,885,690,000,000. (Three trillion, eight hundred eighty-five billion, six hundred ninety million.)

Ten years ago, April 21, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,271,325,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred seventy-one billion, three hundred twenty-five million.)

Fifteen years ago, April 21, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,066,640,000,000. (One trillion, sixty-six billion, six hundred forty million.)

Twenty-five years ago, April 21, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$427,853,000,000 (Four hundred twenty-seven billion, eight hundred fifty-three million), which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,924,880,602,413.77 (four trillion, nine hundred twenty-four billion, eight hundred eighty million, six hundred two thousand, four hundred thirteen dollars and seventy-seven cents), during the past 25 years.

SUPPLEMENT TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on April 17, 1997, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration adopted rules of procedure as a supplement to the Committee Rules of Procedure for the purpose of the committee's investigation of the election for U.S. Senator in the State of Louisiana in 1996.

I ask unanimous consent that the rules of procedure be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MOTION

(As passed by the Committee, April 17, 1997)

Whereas, the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 5 provides that the Senate is "the Judge of the Elections, Returns, and Qualifications of its own Members * * *";

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court has reviewed this Constitutional provision on several occasions and has held: "[The Senate] is the judge of elections, returns and qualifications of its members. * * * It is fully empowered, and may determine such matters without the aid of the House of Representatives or the Executive or Judicial Department," [*Reed et al. v. The County Comm'rs of Delaware County, Penn.*, 277 U.S. 376, 388 (1928)]; and

Whereas, in the course of Senate debate, it has been stated: "The Constitution vested in this body not only the power but the duty to judge, when there is a challenged election result involving the office of U.S. Senator." [Congressional Record Vol. 121, Part 1, p. 440].

Therefore, the Committee on Rules and Administration, having been given jurisdiction over "contested elections" under Rule 25 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, authorizes the Chairman, in consultation with the ranking minority member, to direct and conduct an Investigation of such scope as deemed necessary by the Chairman, into illegal or improper activities to determine the existence or absence of a body of fact that would justify the Senate in making the determination that fraud, irregularities or other errors, in the aggregate, affected the outcome of the election for United States Senator in the state of Louisiana in 1996.

This Committee Motion will operate in conjunction with and concurrent to the Standing Rules of the Senate. In addition, the following Rules of Procedure are applicable, as a supplement to the Committee Rules of Procedure:

A. *Full Committee subpoenas:* The chairman, with the approval of the ranking minority member of the Committee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials at a hearing or deposition, provided that the chairman