

politics. In an interview in 1970, he murmured, while his wife was out of the room, "The political bug is a curious bug." But he was also, she said, her best friend and supporter, and "one of the few unneurotic people left in society."

CORROSIVE AMBITION HAMPERS A CAREER

Ms. Abzug's own ambition was too corrosive for many people, even—or, perhaps, especially—for her fellow New York Democrats. When the State Legislature sliced up her district in 1972, they urged her to challenge one of the two conservative incumbent Democrats in adjoining districts, Representative John J. Rooney or Representative John M. Murphy. Instead, she opposed a liberal Democrat, William Fitts Ryan, in the 20th District, encompassing the Upper West Side and the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

The primary was bitter and, eventually, politically expensive to Ms. Abzug. Bill Ryan was one of the earliest heroes of the city's insurgent Democrats, an early opponent of the Vietnam War and a genuinely well-liked man who, as many of his constituents knew, was waging a gallant fight against cancer.

Mr. Ryan defeated Ms. Abzug in the Democratic primary but died before the general election. The Democratic County Committee appointed Ms. Abzug as the candidate to replace him, but she was challenged by Mr. Ryan's widow, Priscilla, who ran on the Liberal line. Ms. Abzug won in November, but she had made dedicated enemies who believed she was an overly aggressive politician who would not hesitate to attack anyone who got in her way. Ten years later, she was denied a seat in the state's delegation to the national party's biannual conference because New York leaders considered her disruptive.

In 1976, she gave up her House seat to run for the Senate. She lost in the primary, to Daniel Patrick Moynihan, by a margin of only 1 percent. Two more campaigns quickly followed. (In a 1978 interview, she said: "I'm a politician. I run for office, That's my profession.") She lost to Edward I. Koch in a crowded mayoral primary in 1977. The next year, running for the House again, she lost, again by 1 percent, to a little-known Republican, S. William Green.

She was appointed co-chairwoman of President Jimmy Carter's National Advisory Committee on Women, and then after disagreeing with him over economic policy, was dismissed. The majority of the committee members resigned in protest. Ms. Abzug, unapologetic, said with a shrug, "I've got to find myself another big, nonpaying job."

Her next and last campaign was in 1986, this time for a House seat in Westchester County. She won the primary in a burst of the old, ebullient campaigning style, but lost in November to Joseph J. DioGuardi, the Republican incumbent.

It was during that campaign that Martin Abzug died. Her friends said Ms. Abzug never recovered. Nine years later, she said in an interview, "I haven't been entirely the same since."

There was one more bid for office for her old house seat on the Upper West Side, when she announced her candidacy to replace Representative Ted Weiss on his death just before the 1992 election. But she was quickly eliminated from the field at the party convention.

During the next decade, Ms. Abzug suffered from ill health, including breast cancer, but continued to practice law and work for women's groups. She wrote a book, "Gender Gap," with her old friend Mim Kelber. She started a lobbying group called Women U.S.A. and founded the Women's Environment and Development Organization, a nonprofit group that works with international agencies.

In addition to her daughters, Eve and Liz, Ms. Abzug is survived by her sister, Helene Alexander of Great Neck, N.Y.

"I've been described as a tough and noisy woman, a prizefighter, a man hater, you name it." Ms. Abzug said of herself in "Bella." "they call me Battling Bella, Mother Courage and a Jewish mother with more complaints than Portnoy."

"There are those who say I'm impatient, impetuous, uppity, rude, profane, brash and overbearing. Whether I'm any of these things or all of them, you can decide for yourself. But whatever I am—and this ought to be made very clear at the outset—I am a very serious woman."•

RETIREMENT OF NORTHAMPTON CITY TREASURER, MS. SHIRLEY LAROSE

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today, to pay tribute to Ms. Shirley LaRose, a dedicated public servant who has devoted more than forty-three years of her life to the residents of Northampton, Massachusetts. The city treasurer's office, which has been brightened by her infectious smile and delightful manner, will soon bid farewell to this outstanding woman. She is trading in her balance sheets to enjoy the splendors of a well-deserved retirement.

It is my understanding that Ms. LaRose began her career in the office of the Northampton city treasurer in 1954 as a clerk. In the years to follow, she was promoted from junior to senior clerk, and then became assistant treasurer. She became treasurer of Northampton in 1972 and has run unopposed for the position in every single election since the primary in 1973. Not only is this stellar record a reflection of her competent handling of the city's financial needs, but also of the respect she earned from the people of Northampton.

During her years of overseeing the receipt and distribution of city funds as well as the salaries, life insurance, and retirement policies of its employees, I have been told that Ms. LaRose touched the lives of countless people. She served her community with deep integrity, and her contributions to its prosperity are remarkable. I stand today to thank Shirley for her years of service to Northampton and to wish her well in her retirement. Her loyalty and accomplishments will not soon be forgotten by the grateful citizens of Northampton.•

NOMINATION OF JAMES HORMEL

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I wish to speak today regarding the nomination of James Hormel of California to be the U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Last fall, after President Clinton nominated Jim Hormel to serve as our nation's next Ambassador to Luxembourg, the Foreign Relations Committee, on November 4, reported the nomination favorably by a vote of 16 to 2 and sent the nomination to the full Senate for consideration. During the

course of this business meeting, no member of the Committee spoke in opposition to the nomination.

The problem is that the Senate has not been able to consider this nomination because some of our colleagues have put "holds" on it. Before adjourning last year, the Senate confirmed some 50 nominees, whose nominations had been approved by the Foreign Relations Committee. The only nomination that languished was that of Jim Hormel and the reason for this is very obvious. Some of my colleagues oppose this nomination because Jim Hormel is openly gay. That means, in their view, that he is not fit to represent his country overseas in Luxembourg.

It doesn't matter that government officials in Luxembourg have been eager to support this nominee. It doesn't matter, apparently, that in his correspondence with our colleague Senator SMITH from Oregon, Jim Hormel went on the record—in unprecedented fashion—in saying that he would not use his position as Ambassador to push any personal agenda, that his partner would not travel with him to Luxembourg, and his public positions would be those of the United States government only. All that matters, I suspect, for some members of this Senate, is that Jim Hormel is gay, that the most private and intimate elements of his lifestyle disqualify him from public service.

Mr. President, the issue is not and should not be Mr. Hormel's sexual orientation. The only relevant question here is whether he is qualified to undertake the position for which he has been nominated. The answer to that is "yes".

He has impressive academic credentials, having received his undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College and his J.D. from the University of Chicago. He has served as Assistant Dean and Dean of students at the University of Chicago. He currently sits on the board of managers of Swarthmore.

Jim Hormel is a loving father and grandfather, a businessman who ran a successful company for years, and a philanthropist who has supported, in his words but most importantly in his deeds, some of the most important causes facing this country. Outside the beltway, there's a chorus of very public support for this nominee. Those who care about autism, breast cancer research, AIDS research, religious diversity and human rights—they've all rallied together behind this nominee. The Episcopal Archdiocese of California has called Jim Hormel "an exemplary representative of the United States of America." Leaders from the business world, from the universities, and from diplomatic circles, including, I might add, former Secretary of State George Schultz, have stated publicly that James Hormel's public character and intellect make him an exceptionally strong nominee.

This is not the first time that Jim Hormel has been asked to serve his

country. In 1995 he was a member of the U.S. delegation to the 51st U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Last year he was nominated to serve an alternative representative of the U.S. delegation to the 51st U.N. General Assembly—a position subject to confirmation by the Senate. I want to remind my colleagues that no objection was raised to his nomination for this position, and the Senate confirmed him unanimously on May 23, 1997. In the final analysis, we've all got to make our private decisions about what we find acceptable, about which personal values we embrace. However, this Senator does not believe that private considerations should be used to deny an individual the right to hold a job for which he is qualified or to deny the full Senate its right to exercise its constitutional responsibility to act on a nomination. Those Senators standing in the way of this nomination should remove their "holds" and let the Senate work its will.●

PRAYER WARRIORS

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I was moved to find that more than 800 members of the D.C. community gathered together yesterday to pray for the District's public schools. The Rhema Christian Center Church invited people of all faiths to join them and pray for 25 school improvements which ranged from increased parental involvement to better safety.

They call themselves prayer warriors. They were each assigned to one of the District's 146 schools for the "Jesus Goes to School Day of Prayer." As the children of D.C. walked into school—outside the prayer warriors prayed.

Many of these children walk through dangerous neighborhoods—where drug deals and violence are common—on their way to school every day. These children begin their school day with negative images. Yesterday, however, was different. Yesterday, the children of D.C. began their school day with a strong, positive message of prayer and support from their community.

The prayer warriors said "We have tried everything else as a nation to save public education. Now, let's try prayer." Mr. President, we should recognize and affirm the example these prayer warriors have set in the nation's Capitol.●

SHEBOYGAN SELECTED TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST YOUTH INACTIVITY

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin for being selected by the National Sporting Goods Association to launch the Wannabe Cool, Gottabe Active Campaign. The campaign, which targets students in grades 3-8, is designed to inspire confidence in one's abilities and to spur a lifetime dedication to physical and mental wellness.

We must recognize the importance of programs like this which give children options that empower them to lead healthy lives.

Mr. President, this is especially important when we consider that we are witnessing a decrease in activity among our nation's youth. Today, only 22 percent of our children are physically active for the recommended 30 minutes each day. Physical education classes are on the decline with three out of four students in America not attending daily physical education classes and one out of four not attending any physical education classes in their schools—this represents a drop of almost 20 percent in just four years. These are frightening statistics and we need to reverse this trend.

The Wannabe Cool, Gottabe Active Campaign is a good start. There are several things I like about the program. First, the campaign targets the right age group, because we know that a commitment to physical activity is formed between the ages of eight and twelve. I am also impressed that the campaign involves a cooperative effort: parents, students, teachers, and community leaders all working together. Finally, the Wanna be Cool, Gotta be Active Campaign is designed to encourage all youth, not just those who are athletically inclined to participate and develop long-term enjoyment of physical activity. This is a serious issue which demands our attention.

Mr. President, I would like to once again extend my congratulations to the wonderful city of Sheboygan, Wisconsin for being selected to kick off the campaign. I'm sure that everyone involved will benefit from this very worthwhile venture.●

SATELLITE REFORM

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, during the final days of the first session of the 105th Congress, I announced that I would engage in an effort to eliminate outdated regulations and foster competition in the global satellite market. Since that time, I have held several meetings with representatives from the industry. In addition, my staff has conducted a series of open briefings with the various parties currently competing in the market, as well as representatives from the White House, the State Department and the International Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission. These meetings have recently concluded, and I now plan to move forward legislatively on this critical issue.

The international satellite market is poised for phenomenal growth as it looks to the 21st century. A mere 10 years ago there was only one service in place: Intelsat. Today a breathtaking array of services are either already in existence or planned to be launched in the near future. With this rapid transformation, it becomes clear that one day people everywhere from Bozeman, Montana, to Beijing, China, will send

and receive telephone, video and data transmissions via satellite. The future of satellite communications is a future where opportunities are no longer limited by geography.

Unfortunately, while the industry hopes to reach a new orbit, U.S. policy in this area is still being left on the launching pad. Not since Ronald Reagan deregulated the satellite market in 1984 have we taken steps to bring our policy more in line with the competitive pressures of today. As a result, many consumers both here and abroad have not been able to benefit from the increase in services or the lowering of prices that have resulted from President Reagan's vision.

This is why I am going to use the upcoming recess to begin putting together a bill that will move U.S. satellite policy from the Stone Age to the Space Age. I intend to incorporate the views of all interested parties and I urge my colleagues to come to me with their ideas. I expect to have a bill completed and ready for introduction when we return later this month. I will hold a hearing in the Communications Subcommittee on the bill shortly after the Senate returns from the Easter recess. While I had originally planned to hold the hearing on April 22, I am moving the hearing date to April 29 to ensure that members have adequate time to give their insights and suggestions on this most important issue.

As I indicated when I first took on this issue, there will be several principles that will help guide me along the way. Competition, deregulation, privatization and competitive neutrality are all principles that have helped drive past industries toward success. While the global satellite industry is somewhat different because we are dealing with sovereign nations around the world, there is no reason that the United States cannot take a strong position and lead by example. It was our leadership under the 1962 Satellite Act that gave this industry its beginning and it can be our leadership today that brings the industry firmly into the 21st century. In fact, Mr. President, we recently witnessed such U.S. leadership. Last week, the Intelsat assembly of parties approved the creation of a spin-off company. This effort was achieved through the hard work of the U.S. delegation and the 141 member nations of Intelsat. I believe this is a positive first step on the path to bringing boundless opportunities to folks all over the globe.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in crafting legislation with the ultimate goal of encouraging competition in this industry. The rapid changes in technology and consumer behavior dictate that we act expeditiously. Market forces simply will not wait. I intend to work closely with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee to make sure that consumer interests are protected as we move forward on this vital issue.●