

is only one name left in the box. Of course that process, accompanied by a blank look which changes to recognition, used to be completed in an invisible flash. Now it takes two, three or four flashes. Bear with me.

Nowadays, of course, a pill is recommended for strengthening the memory. I received a pharmaceutical suggestion of this sort this week, extensively illustrated and expensively produced. I am skeptical of its potency.

#### MEMORY AND THE FUTURE

Memory we naturally assume deals only with the past. Lewis Carroll's White Queen in Alice in Wonderland felt this was a very limited idea. "There's one great advantage to living backwards, one's memory works both ways," she remarks.

"I'm sure mine only works one way," says Alice. "I can't remember things before they happen."

"It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards," the Queen remarked.

"What sort of things do you remember best?" asked Alice.

"Oh, things that happened the week after next," said the Queen.

Here, of course, Lewis Carroll is playing with the concept of Time, as in "Jam yesterday, jam tomorrow, but never jam today."

But there is something, which we might describe as a form of memory of the future. We call it imagination, which projects past data instead of merely collecting and organizing it as does the memory.

Art draws on both imagination and memory. Think of the combination of memorizing and recreating a great play that goes into an actor's performance. Daniel Barenboim at the age of seven began to memorize all Mozart's works. At eighteen he had mastered the whole corpus. Constant practice fixes the memory in the muscles. A wellknown pianist was suddenly called on to play a certain concerto. He declined saying, "I have it in my head, but not yet in my fingers." When it is in the fingers there is no effort to remember; the music can be fully endowed with the feeling the artist desires.

Shakespeare asked the question "Tell me where is fancy bred? Or in the heart or in the head? How begot? How nourished? Reply. Reply" He replied "It is engendered in the eyes." He did not say "In the hippocampus or the amygdala?" The mystery of artistic imagination and its relation to memory still resists a mechanistic interpretation.

#### THE FUTURE OF MEMORY

As far as information goes, so the experts inform me, before long we shall all be able to have the Encyclopedia on a chip along with the corpus of English literature, all the mathematical formulae required to do advanced physics and all the telephone numbers in the world. Anything you want can be provided on a chip. All you have to do is click on and scroll down. Since the amount of information is limited only by the capacity of the chip—which I am told, will increase a thousandfold or more in the next six months—it is likely it can be carried in a wristwatch slightly smaller than a Rolex, or, in time, implanted in the hippocampus or the amygdala or any vacant spot in the brain. And Memory will have become a vermiform appendix to the computer. I do not look forward to that day. Princeton, I am distressed to learn has just spent two million dollars on an MRI which they have enthroned in a new Center for the Study of Brain, Mind and Behavior allied, alas, to the Department of Humanities. The first area of research, according to the New York Times,

is to be the brain wave that normal people call "Love". Our world is convinced that when we know the "how" of our psyche, we shall know the "what" and the "why". I am not convinced. I hope and trust that should the day come when we understand all mechanisms, measure all wave-lengths, and plot all emotional outcomes, we as individuals will still be the masters that issue the commands that set in motion the neurological synapses which capture memory, enlighten meaning and in general make life human. May we continue to remember as much as is necessary of what we need to remember and forget that which is forgettable, and be kind to those whose advancing years rob them, from time to time of your name, and even of their own.

And may music still vibrate in the memory and William the Conqueror still come from Normandy and Columbus in 1492 still sail the ocean blue, and Greek verbs still be memorable and may computers fail to find out how to be masters of our consciousness.

We have had a pleasant half-hour wandering, somewhat disjointedly, through the groves of Memory. Let me close with a poem on the subject by a neglected Twentieth century poet. It is appropriately called "Memory."

Wind, west wind, of an evening  
Whispering through the tall trees,  
Tell me tales I used to hear told  
By the vagabond Sussex breeze,  
Lifting the layers of silence,  
And letting them softly lie,  
Passing into the stillness that comes  
When whispers softly die.  
And I'll see the woods where we wandered  
And wake with a lonely heart  
As the wind of memory passes through  
The tall trees of my heart.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHAEL O'CONNOR

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to commend an individual who has provided immeasurable service to the family farmers and ranchers in my home state of South Dakota over the past eight years. Mr. Michael O'Connor has been the South Dakota State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency, FSA, of United States Department of Agriculture, USDA. He was originally named the South Dakota State Executive Director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of USDA by President Clinton in 1993. His current responsibilities include supervising activity in 60 county FSA field offices across the state.

As this Administration draws to a close, we sadly must say goodbye to some experienced, tireless, and talented people who have dedicated their professional careers to public service. Mike is one of those public servants, and so on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota, it is my honor to express our sincere gratitude to Mike O'Connor for his countless contributions and achievements.

Throughout his career Mike has aggressively served the agricultural community in South Dakota through positions of leadership in the South Dakota Farmers Union, the Clay-Union Elec-

tric Board of Directors, the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council Board of Directors, and the Union County Pork Producers. He also served in as a representative in South Dakota Legislature from 1987–1993.

Moreover, Mike, his wife Janelle, and their family have devoted their lives to production agriculture, operating a diversified grain and livestock farm for over 30 years near Alcester, South Dakota.

Mike has been a valuable resource for me and a determined advocate of family farmers as we developed and implemented farm programs. He is constantly trying to improve the delivery system with the interests of family farmers close to his heart, always searching for ways to implement programs that are fair and equitable to all. Mike exhibits the courage to take on the status quo, and demonstrates a will to ensure integrity in program delivery for agricultural producers.

Mike has guided innumerable disaster and assistance programs from the federal level to local disbursement in South Dakota. He and his top-notch staff have been asked to implement these ad hoc disaster programs in addition to the day-to-day administrative requirements of current farm and conservation programs. From marketing loans and loan deficiency payments to production flexibility contract payments and market loss payments, to loan and conservation programs, to crop loss disaster payments, Mike has seen it all. He has worked with his statewide staff to administer these programs and distribute payments in an effective, timely fashion to South Dakota farmers. In this last fiscal year alone, the South Dakota FSA, under Mike's direction, has delivered over \$750 million to farm program participants in South Dakota. Mere words cannot describe everything that Mike has done to serve the farmers and ranchers in South Dakota through such an awful period of economic distress. Mike is as respected in Washington, D.C. as he is in South Dakota, and his working knowledge of the intricacies of farm bill will be missed.

Therefore, it is with a sense of pride and yet, regret, that I wish Mike well in his future endeavors.

Mr. President, I thank you and wish Mike, Janelle, and their family success in their future plans. I know that we will continue to work together, as Mike will continue to provide a respected opinion that I will seek out during the upcoming Congressional farm bill debate. On behalf of the people of South Dakota, I want to thank Mike for being a true public servant who has helped improve the quality of life for farmers and ranchers all across South Dakota. ●