

even manner, his soft-spoken ways. Though passionate in his beliefs, he worked quietly and steadily in a bipartisan spirit to achieve his goals. The State of Virginia is better off today for his efforts in the Senate, and the Senate has been the better for his presence. Now, to Senator GORTON.

Senator SLADE GORTON knows something about leaving the Senate, having left once before in 1987, only to return 2 years later to serve from 1989 through the end of the 106th Congress. I have been his ranking member on the Senate Committee on Appropriations. I am here to say that I could not have had a better partner than the distinguished Senator from Washington. Of course, I have said that many times before. In these past years, he has been the wheel horse of our team, putting his shoulder to the wheel and pulling the heavy load of putting together the complex Interior appropriations bill. He has shown himself to be a master of the appropriations process, and no one, I venture to say, knows the Interior appropriations bill and the programs it funds better than SLADE GORTON does. Senator GORTON has a truly impressive grasp of detail, and yet he never lets minutiae cloud his vision of the overall picture. I could not have asked for a more congenial, collegial, common-sense colleague, and I will truly miss my friend, SLADE GORTON, on the committee.

I know that the rest of the Senate will miss our colleague from Washington as well. He is well liked on both sides of the aisle as gracious, polite, soft spoken. He never rebukes a colleague. Rather, he will look up, blink in polite astonishment, and with a gentle question point out the error of one's ways.

Senator GORTON is another example of a Member who makes the Senate work by focusing on the needs of his constituents. Besides his work on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and throughout the entire appropriations process, Senator GORTON looked after the interests of Washington State from his seat on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation where he chaired the Subcommittee on Aviation and also served on the Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries, both important to a coastal State that is home to Boeing Aviation.

He also served as the vice chair, the vice chairman—Mr. President, I break my sentence. I do not believe in this nonsense. I do not believe in this nonsense called political correctness. I have no use for it whatsoever. There is a chair right there across the aisle; here is a chair beside me. There is a difference between a chairman and a chair. I do not subscribe to the word "chair" except where it is appropriate to use it, and I never refer to a human being as a "chair." I do not want anyone referring to me as a "chair."

Senator GORTON also served as the vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—again topics of interest to his State with significant hydropower concerns. And if these duties did not keep him busy enough, Senator GORTON also served on the Senate Budget Committee.

Senator GORTON's focus serves the Senate well. In defending the different perspectives of States large and small, populous or not, rural or urban, individual Senators act as the kind of internal checks and balances that the framers envisioned, keeping the tyranny of a majority from putting other groups and interests at a disadvantage.

The Senate is designed to give States an equal voice and equal standing, despite differences among the States with respect to population.

I shall especially miss Senator GORTON because we worked very closely together on the Appropriations Committee. It was a very busy subcommittee. It is a westerner's subcommittee, in fact. That is the way I have always looked upon it, although I have found it to be very important, as well, to States of the East and South and North.

I wish him well. I will miss him. As an able and talented man, he will soon find new venues in which to continue serving the public interest.

He traveled all across this country, he and his family, on bicycles upon one occasion some years ago, from the west coast to the east coast, the whole family, on bicycles. So one might easily imagine what kind of adventurer SLADE GORTON is. That takes a lot of courage, a lot of determination. But wherever he goes, and wherever Senator ROBB goes, wherever these other Senators whose names I have mentioned go, they will always be called "Senator." Majorian, in 457 A.D., when he was made emperor of the West, referred to himself as "a prince who still glories in the name of Senator."

Mr. President, I close with a few lines from a poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson. It is a fitting tribute to the fine, lasting work performed in this mighty Senate by these departing Members: Senator ROBB, Senator GORTON, Senator GRAMS, Senator ASHCROFT, and Senator ABRAHAM. I am speaking of these Senators. There are other Senators who are departing and about whom I have spoken previously. Senators whose names I have mentioned today are Senators who were in the most recent election, who fought nobly and well, and who lost.

What makes a nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?

What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand
Go down in battle shock;
Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.

Is it the sword? Ask the red dust
Of empires passed away;
The blood has turned their stones to rust,
Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright crown
Has seemed to nations sweet;
But God has struck its luster down
In ashes at His feet.

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,

Who dare while others fly—
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as we prepare, in these last days, to go home for the Christmas holidays—and I suppose we include New Year's as well, at which time we will go into a new century. To all those who have been a part of perpetrating this colossal hoax on the American people, trying to make the American people believe that the new century began in January of 2000, let me say, come January 1 of 2001, all mankind will then, indeed, move into the 21st century. It will begin, and so will the third millennium. Anyone who can count from 1 to 100 knows that that is the case, whether they use the old math or the new. We will begin the 21st century on January 1 next.

TRIBUTE TO THE SENATE CHAPLAIN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, each day the Senate is in session the Chaplain leads us in prayer. From time to time, we have a guest Chaplain, a guest Chaplain perhaps coming from one or the other of the States. I am always awed to stand in this Chamber and hear the Chaplain deliver the prayer. As long as this Republic stands, I am confident that the Senate and the House will be opened with prayer.

In West Virginia, anytime there is a public ceremony of any kind, there is sure to be a prayer, just as surely as we have the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain is always here. He ministers to us, not just by way of a daily prayer here, but if we are ill, in the hospital, or if a family member is in the hospital, if we lose a loved one, the Chaplain is there. He is there to console and to comfort us and to pray with us.

I feel that we should take note of this as we prepare to close out our session. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. . . ." Tenneyson said that. I just remembered it.

So I thank our Chaplain on behalf of all of us—on behalf of the Members, on behalf of the officers of the Senate, on