

dreamed of seeing the world but vowed always to return to the Appalachian communities he held dear.

A blind date in 1945 led to marriage. Cooper said he and his wife separated about 25 years ago but remain married. His wife could not be reached for comment.

In his home, Cooper has pictures of himself climbing some of the world's largest mountains. He said he has skinned seals with Eskimos, and he has a jacket identifying him as an honorary colonel in the Argentine army.

But during his travels from the Arctic to the Andes and the Alps, he said he has always had Kentucky on his mind.

Standing beneath the observatory above his home on a recent afternoon, Cooper contemplated his next act of good will.

"I have some things in mind," he said. "There are a lot of worthwhile places out there."

WORDS OF WISDOM

Mr. REID. Our friend and colleague, Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, left us last year to enjoy a well-earned retirement. However, he still has a few words of wisdom, and just a little vitriol, that he would like to share.

Senator Hollings was one of the most fascinating speakers ever to take the Senate floor. His comments were sometimes controversial, but always thought-provoking and delivered in a way only Fritz Hollings could orate. We miss him.

I ask unanimous consent that the statement of Senator Hollings be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I may not agree with all his statements, but as usual I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. I hope all Americans will enjoy it as well.

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

STATE OF THE UNION

On leaving the Senate after 38 years, I am constantly asked "what is your legacy?" Answer—a mess! While the country is going broke and jobs are hemorrhaging, G.I.s are getting killed in an unwinnable war, and nobody cares. At least there is no sacrifice. In Washington Republicans and Democrats are in a Mexican standoff. Amid shouts that Social Security is "flat broke", the nation's security is being undermined.

Our security rests as on a three legged stool. The first leg—values—has always been the strongest. The United States has always been admired for its sacrifice for human rights and freedom. But our invasion of Iraq has created a training ground for terrorists and given Islamic television Al Jazeera a daily drumbeat of U.S. "atrocities." The second leg—economic—enjoyed its strongest era in the 1990's with low inflation, record growth and a strong dollar. The budget was balanced in 2001 with the recession lasting less than 9 months. But the tax cuts of the last four years caused deficits of \$141.1 billion, \$428.5 billion, \$562 billion, and \$593 billion. These fiscal deficits together with a trade deficit of \$600 billion have the dollar in a dive. With our outsourcing of jobs policy the United States is fast losing its productive capacity. Finally, the third leg—mili-

tary—has us again, as in Vietnam, losing. For the first time regulars in the Army are suing against extended duty and Americans are refusing to join the Guard and Reserves.

The need is to rebuild America. To get Congress to lead the rebuilding we must excise the cancer of money on the body politic and adopt a constitutional amendment: "The Congress of the United States is hereby empowered to regulate and control spending in federal elections." This will immediately limit campaigns, and cut the time raising money. Next, limit each senator to two committees—no exceptions. Then cut the staffs. Now the Senators will have time to work on the people's business rather than the campaign.

The first order of business is to get on top of health costs and provide healthcare for all of America. Next, instead of tax cuts enact a 2 percent VAT tax to pay for Iraq, Afghanistan and to eliminate the deficit. This will limit our disadvantage with global trade and strengthen the economy. Then resume Cordell Hull's reciprocal free trade policy by: Instituting a Department of Trade and Commerce bringing the Special Trade Representative and other trade entities under one roof; abolishing the International Trade Commission transferring its duties to the International Trade Administration; eliminating the tax benefit for jobs going offshore and giving the break to businesses producing onshore; appointing an Assistant U.S. Attorney General to enforce trade laws; employing the necessary customs agents to stop transshipments; enlarging rather than eliminating the Advanced Technology Program; and reviewing our membership in the World Trade Organization.

Then provide the needs of air, rail and port security. Adopt an energy bill, a highway bill and begin to control the immigration and drug problem by adopting a Marshall plan for Mexico.

Finally confront the terror that confronts us. It's not the terror of Northern Ireland or Spain. It's not because of who we are or our values. It's because of our Israel-Palestine policy that appears one-sided. We confirmed this appearance with our invasion of Iraq. Terrorism got organized and spread. Now our problem is we are neither in nor out. It's too late to get in with the necessary troops so the best way to support the Iraq election is to remove ourselves as "occupiers." As former Senator George Aiken of Vermont said "declare victory and withdraw." Then have the Commander in Chief go to the front line of terrorism and instead of proclaiming "road maps" on high, have him get down in the traffic for peace.

None of this will happen unless the media gets out of politics. Of course they make more money taking polls and exciting controversy. But now the free press has abandoned its important role of maintaining a strong democracy. Thomas Jefferson signaled this responsibility when he observed; "between a government without newspapers or newspapers with out a government" he would chose the latter. The press used to report the truth to the American people and keep the Congress honest. Instead the press is downfield starting the fight instead of reporting the facts. The fact is that Social Security has a surplus of \$1.7 trillion and is in good shape until 2042. The fact is that the states readily regulate tort reform. The fact is that while the IRS can always stand some reform we can't afford a tax cut at this time. Rather than playing politics with these issues the press should be reporting the State of the Union.

IN MEMORY OF TONY ARMSTRONG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today, to honor the memory of a great Nevadan, Tony Armstrong, who passed away last Saturday morning.

Tony was the mayor of the town of Sparks, NV, and I had the privilege of working with him in that capacity.

But I rise today not to praise Tony Armstrong the mayor, even though he was a great mayor.

I want to praise Tony Armstrong the husband, the father, the friend, the neighbor.

I rise to praise Tony Armstrong the man who made a positive impression on everyone he met, through the force of an engaging personality that reflected his basic love of people.

Tony spent most of his life in Sparks. He was born in Philadelphia, but his family moved to northern California when he was a toddler, and settled in Sparks when Tony was 4 years old.

Tony attended school in Sparks, and when he graduated high school he joined the Nevada Air National Guard. After serving on active duty for several years, he returned to Washoe County in 1973 and got a job as a building inspector.

In 1983 he married Debbie Rimby, and a couple of years later he started his own contracting company, which later became a private inspection firm.

He first ran for public office in 1987, when he failed to win election to the Sparks City Council. But like many of us who have lost elections, he learned from that experience and it strengthened his determination. He came back 2 years later and won a seat on the city council. Ten years after that, in 1999, the people of Sparks elected him as their mayor.

He was a popular mayor, guided always by his love of Sparks, his appreciation of the city's history, and his vision for the future.

Tony worked to preserve the best aspects of Sparks, the friendly atmosphere that make it such a wonderful place to raise a family, and at the same time, improve the services and amenities.

He realized that the great quality of life in northern Nevada meant that Sparks would continue to grow, and he worked to manage that growth so it would benefit the citizens of the city.

During the 14 years that he served as a city councilman and mayor, Sparks grew from a sleepy little railroad town to a city that is home to about 80,000 people.

He oversaw the development of a project called Victorian Square, which preserves and revitalizes a historic area, and the Sparks Marina. I had the privilege of working with him on that marina project.

He was a tireless champion for his city. Sparks and Reno share a convention center and airport, and Tony Armstrong was constantly working to