

The US clothing manufacturer had invested in Mr. McCarter's women's underwear manufacturing plant in Buncrana in 1985 and had agreed to invest GBP 18.5 million (EUR 26.8 million) and to grow its workforce in Donegal and Derry to 3,500.

"I was up to my tonsils running Fruit of the Loom," he says. "I spoke to John Holland his mentor in the US about getting involved in the fund. He said it would be very good for me and for the company."

Mr. Holland ended the conversation saying: "I am sure you would be able to do that as well as run the company".

In 1992, his involvement with the fund increased when he took over as chairman.

"The fund was a subtle way to bring people from both communities together. Instead of giving them cups of tea and saying 'let's get reconciled', it used job creation to give people an economic focus. In a low-key way, the fund brought people from both communities into projects to provide a human dynamic and develop relationships that would not have existed in a divided society."

Some of its flagship undertakings include the re-opening of the Shannon-Erne waterway, while many town centres have been given a face-lift with its support.

Mr. McCarter believes the fund's ability to be the first to put its cash on the table to back new projects has been a tremendous asset in terms of providing a kick-start for fresh ideas. Its role in the Shannon-Erne waterway, he says, is a good example of what the fund can do.

"When it was first mentioned, it was regarded as a completely mad project. The fund commissioned a GBP 1 million feasibility study that showed it might work. We later put another GBP 5 million into it and attracted other investment. If the fund hadn't put GBP 1 million down initially, the Shannon-Erne waterway wouldn't have happened," he says.

The fund claims to have played a central role in bringing about the joint marketing of Ireland as a tourist destination by the authorities in the North and the Republic. It has also fostered closer linkages between Cork, Trinity and Queen's universities in the field of microelectronics.

"A lot of initiatives have worked but the fund's role has been forgotten," according to Mr. McCarter. "I am glad that the fund is seen as a fair and reputable dealer. I have worked with very gifted people on the board and in the communities who have made a great contribution."

While US presidents have played a crucial role in supporting the peace process and the IFI's work, its contribution to the fund has been reduced from \$25 million to \$18.5 million under the Bush administration due to budgetary pressures.

Mr. McCarter says this figure is "not half bad" and suggests that the Bush administration has been misjudged in terms of its commitment to Ireland.

"President Bush may not have the same personal interest as President Clinton but the administration has a very tangible interest in Ireland, the peace process and the fund. Support in the Senate and the House of Representatives remains extremely strong. These people are made of stern stuff. They will see things through until there is a stable society," he says.

While the peace process is currently at an impasse, Mr. McCarter believes there is little danger that the enormous strides made, in terms of improving relationships and raising prosperity, will be reversed.

"I don't think it will unravel. Too many people can see the benefits. I have lived in a

border area all of my life and can see a tangible change."

Mr. McCarter was ousted from Fruit of the Loom in 1997 following differences with its then owner, US corporate raider Bill Farley. The exit of the McCarter family from the business was a blow for the workforce and signalled the end of an era in terms of job security. The workforce has dropped to around 500, with the entire operations to be moved to Morocco over the next three to four years.

"When it goes to Morocco, it will be after 20 years in the north-west. It did a lot of good. Fruit of the Loom led to a lot of people making lives for themselves and was influential in improving the local infrastructure. I will be sorry to see it go. I am very fond of Donegal and Derry, which now need a substantial investment."

In the future, Mr. McCarter says his main interest will be in Cooley Distillery, the independent whiskey maker founded by his long-time friend, John Teeling. Mr. McCarter is a director and is also on the board of Norish. He is keen to get involved in other businesses.

"I already do quite a lot of work at Cooley and am looking for more non-executive roles," he says. "I would also like to find some way of retaining the many US connections I have made over the years."

HONORING PATRICIA R. FORBES

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor the work, dedication and career of Patricia R. Forbes, a champion for this Nation's small businesses. In just a few days, Patty will be retiring and my office will be losing a truly superb staff member. I cannot think of many people who have contributed as selflessly and as competently in a wonderfully bipartisan fashion as she has.

Prior to joining my staff, Patty served 11 years at the Small Business Administration and spent 4 years directing the staff of then-chair of the Senate Small Business Committee, Senator Dale Bumpers from Arkansas. During Senator Bumpers' chairmanship, Patty served as his majority counsel and later as his deputy staff director and counsel. In her tenure as my staff director and chief counsel on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, she has proven to be an invaluable asset to me and the committee.

Patty joined my staff shortly after I became the chair of the Small Business Committee in 1997. Whether it has been developing and implementing an effective small business legislative agenda, preparing legislation, ensuring that adequate appropriations are directed to small business initiatives, preparing hearings, correspondence or speeches, Patty has been an exemplary leader to the staff of the Small Business Committee. Her ability to craft and negotiate meaningful and responsible legislation affecting SBA's programs and the Nation's small businesses has been a driving force behind the bipartisanship and effectiveness of this committee. Senators on both sides of the

aisle have grown to respect her expertise, her commitment to small businesses, and her unfailing devotion to her work.

During her career, Patty Forbes has made a significant impact on the lives of millions of entrepreneurs. For 13 years, Patty worked in the Senate fighting to provide small businesses greater access to capital, Government contracts, business counseling and training opportunities, tax relief and a plethora of other items that help this Nation's economy grow and help individuals reach for the American dream. I, along with the entire small business community, have been truly lucky to have had her service over the years.

Patty Forbes is leaving behind a legacy of commitment and capability that has helped many entrepreneurs turn their vision into reality. She can take pride in the work she has done for me, the U.S. Senate, and this Nation. Patty Forbes will truly be missed.

NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today marks the 15th anniversary of National Sportsmanship Day, which is celebrated on the first Tuesday of each March. National Sportsmanship Day was the creation of the Institute of International Sport at the University of Rhode Island, and it is now the largest initiative of its kind in the world.

On March 6, 1990, the Institute celebrated the first National Sportsmanship Day in approximately 3,000 schools. By promoting sportsmanship through this ceremonial day over the ensuing 15 years, the institute has made a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of young student-athletes. The institute has received thousands of letters and e-mails commending its leadership in this area. National Sportsmanship Day also has spawned many local sportsmanship initiatives, led to the creation of an annual essay contest on sportsmanship in USA Today, and inspired the celebration of sportsmanship days in foreign countries such as Australia and Bermuda.

This year, through the institute's Team Sportsmanship initiative, groups of college athletes will visit their local elementary, middle, and high schools to further a dialogue among youth about sportsmanship and fair play. As evidenced by media reports on drug scandals and on-field fights, the promotion of sportsmanship among youngsters remains a useful and beneficial endeavor.

I applaud this year's participants in National Sportsmanship Day, and congratulate the institute for its ongoing work to instill the best of values in America's youth.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, March 1, is National Sportsmanship Day. A project of the Institute for