

THIS IS THE FIRST CELEBRATION OF LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY I HAVE KNOWN WITHOUT THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF OUR LATE, DEPARTED FRIEND, EVERETT DIRKSEN -- AND HOW WE MISS HIM.

MY FIRST CONTACT WITH THE SENATOR DATES BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL DAYS, WHEN HE TALKED TO OUR CIVICS CLASS AS A BUDDING POLITICIAN. LITTLE THOUGHT DID I GIVE THEN THAT I WOULD BE CALLED UPON AS I WAS LAST JUNE 10 TO SPEAK AT THE CEREMONY ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS IN WASHINGTON WHEN WE PLANTED AND DEDICATED A SMALL OAK TREE IN SENATOR DIRKSEN'S HONOR. IN TIME IT WILL BE ONE OF THE BIG TREES. NOTHING COULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO MEMORIALIZE HIM ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS, FOR IT SYMBOLIZES HIS LOVE OF NATURE AND LIKE A MIGHTY OAK, HE WAS A TOWERING FIGURE IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

BEYOND ANY PHYSICAL MEMORIAL, THE LIFEWORk OF SENATOR EVERETT DIRKSEN WILL LONG LINGER IN THE HEARTS OF US HERE IN ILLINOIS AND IN THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ACROSS THE NATION.

TONIGHT WE OBSERVE THE BIRTHDAY OF ANOTHER OF ILLINOIS' FAMOUS SONS, ABRAHAM LINCOLN. IN MY EULOGY TO THE SENATOR ON THE HOUSE FLOOR, I SAID THAT "IT WAS MY GOOD FORTUNE TO INTRODUCE HIM ON SO MANY OCCASIONS, I WAS TEMPTED TO COMPARE HIM WITH OUR MOST NOTABLE CITIZEN FROM ILLINOIS, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, BUT HESITATE TO DO SO, BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE EMBARRASSED HIM. BUT CERTAINLY IN TERMS OF IMPACT ON OUR PARTY, ON OUR STATE AND IN THIS CONGRESS, THERE WERE GOOD GROUNDS FOR MAKING SUCH A

COMPARISON.

IN MANY WAYS THE LATE SENATOR DIRKSEN WAS LIKE THE MAN WHO A CENTURY AGO VOICED PRINCIPLES THAT ARE TIMELESS AND APPLY TO TODAY'S PROBLEMS AS THEY DID IN THOSE TURBULENT TIMES. DIRKSEN, LIKE LINCOLN, WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE -- A ROUGH-HEWN MAN OF GREAT GENTLENESS, A MAN WHO LOVED AMERICA AND FOUGHT COURAGEOUSLY FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED IN. WE CANNOT DWELL IN REGRET, BUT I DO WISH HE MIGHT HAVE SEEN THE DAY WHEN HE COULD HAVE BECOME THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. THAT BODY WAS HIS HOME AWAY FROM HOME. PERHAPS NO MAN EVER STUDIED OR LEARNED MORE ABOUT IT AND THE WAY IT FUNCTIONS THAN DID EVERETT DIRKSEN.

HENRY WARD BEECHER ONCE SAID, "GREATNESS LIES NOT IN BEING STRONG, BUT IN THE RIGHT USE OF STRENGTH." EVERETT DIRKSEN FITTED THAT MOLD. HE CAUGHT THE PUBLIC FAVOR BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE INSTINCTIVELY KNEW HE WAS A GOOD AND DECENT MAN, WHO WAS DEVOTING HIS LIFE TO WORKING FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR COUNTRY.

THE PHRASE, "IN GOD WE TRUST", WAS MORE THAN A MOTTO TO EVERETT; IT WAS A WAY OF LIFE. HE WAS A DEVOUT AND SINCERELY RELIGIOUS MAN, WHO BELIEVED THAT OUR FOREFATHERS WERE RIGHT IN PUTTING THEIR TRUST AND FAITH IN GOD. HE WAS CAPABLE OF ANGER, AND THE IDEA OF DEPRIVING OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN OF THE RIGHT TO HEAR THE GREAT STORIES OF THE BIBLE BROUGHT ON HIS WRATH. NOTHING SHOOK THE OLD LAWMAKER MORE THAN THE SUPREME COURT RULING

OUTLAWING PRAYERS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. IN DIRKSEN'S VIEW, THE COURT HAD TAKEN SOMETHING BASIC AWAY FROM AMERICA. HIS MEMORY COULD BE SERVED IN NO BETTER WAY THAN TO HASTEN PASSAGE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT WOULD PERMIT VOLUNTARY PRAYERS IN THE CLASSROOM AND REASSERT THE NATION'S FAITH IN THE WORDS EVERETT DIRKSEN LIVED BY: "IN GOD, WE TRUST".

IN THIS DAY OF MATERIALISM, ANXIETY AND CONFUSED THINKING, THE SIMPLE VERITIES, THE UNSHAKABLE PRINCIPLES AND THE MORAL EXAMPLE OF THE BIBLE ARE SORELY NEEDED.

EV DIRKSEN WAS KNOWN AS A GREAT ORATOR. WE SHARED THE JOY OF HIS RESONANT SPEECHES, FULL WITH QUOTATIONS FROM THE BIBLE, SHAKESPEARE AND THE CLASSICS AND SPICED WITH SPOON RIVER HUMOR, ALL HONED WHEN HE WAS A YOUNG MAN RIGHT HERE IN PEKIN.

HIS WAS A GREAT GIFT; THAT OF PUTTING INTO WORDS WHAT MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WERE THINKING. HE COULD EXPLAIN THE COMPLEXITIES OF GOVERNMENT IN SIMPLE TERMS.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ONCE SAID: "OUR GOVERNMENT RESTS ON PUBLIC OPINION. WHOEVER CAN CHANGE PUBLIC OPINION CAN CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT PRACTICALLY JUST SO MUCH." EV DIRKSEN WAS AN OPINION CHANGER.

WE SHARED THE WONDER OF THAT CATHEDRAL-ORGAN VOICE THAT COULD THUNDER LIKE THE ARTILLERY HE HEARD IN WORLD WAR I OR WHISPER LIKE A LOVER; BUT THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR MORE THAN A GREAT ORATORICAL STYLE. HE WAS A

MAN WHO BELIEVED IN THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG. *noting his old friend FF McNaughton down here I'm reminded how*  
 HIS WORDS OFTEN SENT WELL-EDUCATED REPORTERS SCURRYING TO THEIR DICTIONARIES, BUT HIS PRINCIPLES WERE AS UNCOMPLICATED AS THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIES FROM WHICH HE ROSE.

HIS PRIORITIES WERE SIMPLE. HE OWED HIS FIRST ALLEGIANCE TO GOD, HIS SECOND TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, HIS THIRD TO HIS FAMILY, AND HIS FOURTH TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. NO PRESIDENT WITH WHOM HE EVER SERVED QUARRELED WITH THOSE PRIORITIES.

PRESIDENT NIXON IN HIS EULOGY TO THE SENATOR SAID THAT, "THROUGH FOUR PRESIDENTS, THROUGH THE ADULT LIFE OF MOST AMERICANS LIVING TODAY, EVERETT DIRKSEN HAS HAD A HAND IN SHAPING ALMOST EVERY IMPORTANT LAW THAT EFFECTS OUR LIVES. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "EVERETT DIRKSEN WAS A POLITICIAN IN THE FINEST SENSE OF THE MUCH-ABUSED WORD, AND IF EV WERE STILL HERE, HE MIGHT PUT IT THIS WAY:

A POLITICIAN KNOWS THAT MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE BILL THAT IS PROPOSED IS THE LAW THAT IS PASSED.

A POLITICIAN KNOWS THAT HIS FRIENDS ARE NOT ALWAYS HIS ALLIES, AND THAT HIS ADVERSARIES ARE NOT <sup>necessarily</sup> HIS ENEMIES.

A POLITICIAN KNOWS HOW TO MAKE THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRACY WORK AND LOVES THE INTRICATE WORKINGS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

A POLITICIAN KNOWS NOT ONLY HOW TO COUNT VOTES BUT HOW TO MAKE HIS VOTE COUNT.

A POLITICIAN KNOWS THAT HIS WORDS ARE HIS WEAPONS BUT THAT HIS WORD IS HIS BOND.

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A POLITICIAN KNOWS THAT ONLY IF HE LEAVES ROOM FOR DISCUSSION AND ROOM FOR CONCESSION CAN HE GAIN ROOM FOR MANEUVER.

A POLITICIAN KNOWS THAT THE BEST WAY TO BE A WINNER IS TO MAKE THE OTHER SIDE FEEL THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A LOSER.

A POLITICIAN IN THE DIRKSEN TRADITION, KNOWS BOTH THE NAME OF THE GAME AND THE RULES OF THE GAME, AND HE SEEKS HIS ENDS THROUGH THE TIME-HONORED DEMOCRATIC MEANS. BY BEING THAT KIND OF A POLITICIAN, THIS MAN OF THE MINORITY EARNED THE RESPECT AND AFFECTION OF THE MAJORITY AND BY THE SPECIAL WAY HE GAVE LEADERSHIP TO LEGISLATION, HE ADDED GRACE, ELEGANCE AND COURTLINESS TO THE WORD POLITICIAN.

THAT IS HOW HE BECAME THE LEADER OF THE MINORITY, ONE OF THE LEADERS OF OUR NATION. THAT IS WHY WHEN THE SENATE WORKED ITS WAY, EVERETT DIRKSEN SO OFTEN WORKED HIS WAY. THAT IS WHY, WHILE HE NEVER BECAME PRESIDENT, HIS IMPACT AND INFLUENCE ON THE NATION WAS GREATER THAN THAT OF MOST PRESIDENTS IN OUR HISTORY.

AS WE PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TONIGHT TO THIS GREAT MAN OF ILLINOIS, WE SHOULD DO SO NOT WITH A SENSE OF LOSS OR REMORSE, BUT WITH A SENSE OF REALIZATION AND GRATITUDE FOR THE MANY FINE THINGS THAT EV DIRKSEN ACCOMPLISHED. LET US THEN REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO PUTTING AS MUCH EFFORT INTO OUR OWN LIVES AS HE PUT INTO HIS.