

## ESTIMATES OF SEN. SIMMONS STATED BY HIS COLLEAGUES

### U. S. Senate Halts Business to Honor Senator Simmons' Birthday

Mr. Watson. Mr. President, on the 3rd day of this month the junior Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Overman) passed the seventy-sixth milestone on the highway of life. This day, the 20th of January, 17 days later, the senior Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Simmons) reaches the same age. Our history furnishes no parallel to the lives and careers of these two Senators. They were born on the same state, were brought up in the same state, North Carolina, attended and were graduated from the same college, and have been fast personal and political friends throughout their entire lives, from boyhood up to their present mature years.

The senior senator from North Carolina (Mr. Simmons) came to the Senate in 1901 and is the oldest senator in point of continuous service in this body. The junior senator from North Carolina (Mr. Overman) was elected in 1903, and since that time has rendered continuous and conspicuous service in this body.

What person, here or elsewhere, who does not hope that the lives of these two eminent senators may be spared yet many years to continue to render service in the Senate of the United States, with distinction to themselves, with credit to the great commonwealth they represent, and with honor to the people of the United States? I think a coincidence so singular as this, so outstanding in the history of the Senate, should be noted, and I feel quite sure that we are all willing to take a few minutes in the busy hurly-burly of our senatorial life to pay our tribute of respect to these two eminent and patriotic Senators, public servants.

Mr. Harrison. Mr. President, it is gracious, big, and fine of the distinguished leader of the other side of the aisle (Mr. Watson) on this particular day to stop the wheels of the legislative machinery in order to pay a tribute to the very able and distinguished senators from North Carolina.

When first I became a member of the House of Representatives, and throughout my term there, I believe that North Carolina had as able representation in that body as had any other state of the Union, and my observation and experience in this

body have caused me to realize that no state is better or more ably represented in the Senate than is North Carolina.

I have at times differed from these distinguished senators, as other senators have, over legislative procedure and party policy, but they have conceded to me, as I have conceded to them, the right that every man ought to possess of doing what his conscience dictated and what he thought was for the best interest of the American people.

My distinguished friend the junior senator from North Carolina (Mr. Overman) is one of the sweetest characters with whom any senator ever came in contact; a man of exceptional ability, poise, personality, and constancy; one who has reflected credit on his state and nation.

I have served on the finance committee almost since I entered the senate, and during almost all of the time have sat by the side of the distinguished senior senator from North Carolina (Mr. Simmons). I have been amazed at his ready grasp of financial questions and the ability that he possesses to unravel the most intricate of them. His untiring energy, his close application to service, his fine ability are qualities that forced him to the front in this body as a leader.

So, Mr. President, as one whose work has brought him very close to both senators from North Carolina, I am glad to add my felicitations on this occasion.

Mr. Walsh of Massachusetts. Mr. President, as a senator of another section of the country than that of the two senators from North Carolina and as a member, with the senior senator from North Carolina (Mr. Simmons), of the committee of finance during all the years of my service ere, I want to join in felicitating both those southern senators on this occasion.

The junior senator from North Carolina (Mr. Overman) has always seemed to me to typify more than any other member of this body the picture we are apt to have of the old Roman toga-clad senator—dignified, courtly, courteous. He also represents by his very countenance and appearance the best type of an American senator of our own country and age. I have noticed that often visitors to the gallery have pointed him out and referred to him as a member of this body of distinguished bearing. And he has not only looked the part but has acted it. Every member of this body loves and esteems him as a friend and as a strong fighter, too. How often we have all been thrilled by his suddenly injecting himself into some debate of importance here and by the vigor and emphasis and determination with which he pressed forward his viewpoint.

I am glad, indeed, upon this occasion also to felicitate the senior senator from North Carolina (Mr. Simmons). With him I have been most intimately associated as a member of the Finance committee, and in that association have been greatly impressed by his wide and discriminating grasp of fiscal questions. Both his grasp and his memory of the problems and evidence that have been presented during all the years of his service before the finance committee have been truly remarkable. No senator is better informed on fiscal questions. He is not only a most industrious student but also one of most meticulous accuracy in the statement of facts. I wish to emphasize that characteristic which has always impressed me very strongly, indeed. What he wants to know is what are the facts—the truly representative facts—before he seeks to apply or to prove a particular principle. Furthermore, we who have been associated with him during recent months have been particularly impressed with the spirit of sacrifice and physical courage of the man. There have been days when his associates upon the committee have felt that his health justified temporary absence from public duty. But though suffering at times keenly, and unable to throw himself with wonted vigor into his work, he has come here again and again, showing a spirit of devotion and fidelity to public duty that has

been truly remarkable. The senior senator from North Carolina has given an example of indomitable courage, perseverance, and determination by the manner in which he has conducted the debate upon the pending tariff bill. He has been a source of inspiration to all of us.

May both these noble and great senators, patriotic men, men of vision, men of ability, and men of honorable service be spared many years of peace, happiness, and the grateful esteem of their fellow countrymen.

Mr. Smoot. Mr. President, the junior senator from North Carolina (Mr. Overman) entered this body on the very day that I did. We were then both in the very prime of life. We took the oath of office, which was administered at the same time. I have had the great pleasure of serving with him upon the appropriations committee not only when my party was in power in this body but when the Democratic party was in power, and I want to testify to the fact that never has he supported an appropriation unless he felt in his soul that it was for the best interests of our country. He has been an assistant when in the majority; he has been a leader when the Democrats were in power; and when that happened, I want to say now that I was always more than willing to follow him in his defense of or antagonism to appropriation bills that came before this body.

I have also served on the finance committee with the senior senator from North Carolina ever since 1909. We have sat together. I know just exactly how honorable he is in all of his dealings. I know that whenever a thing appealed to him as right and just he never hesitated to support it.

Mr. President, I want to join with those who have already spoken here in paying tribute to these splendid men. I do it with all my heart, without any reservation whatever. I wish both of them unbounded success and happiness; and may God grant that that may come to them as long as they live.

Mr. Simmons. Mr. President and fellow senators, I have been touched to the very depths by the gracious words of commendation which have been expressed for my colleague and me. I have been even more deeply stirred at the responses given by my colleagues to these words of approbation.

There has been a very remarkable parallel in the lives, especially the political lives, of my colleague and myself. We were both born in the same month of the same year. When we were in our teens we went to the same college at the same time, and both of us entered the profession of the law. When we had grown to manhood we both entered public life in our state. We came to the senate only two years apart, my colleague March 4, 1903, and I March 4, 1901.

Our friendship in college was warm and intimate, and during the more than a quarter of a century that we have served here together our relations have always been marked by feelings of sympathetic and warm friendship. There has never been a clash between us. There have been differences, of course, but only such differences as must come to men of independent thought and independent action.

When I came into this chamber as a senator representing my state, in the second year of this century, I was greeted by a distinguished array of colleagues, most of whom have passed away. I have been here nearly 30 years, in almost daily attendance upon the sessions of the senate, and now I alone remain of all those who composed the senate of 1901. It is a source of great gratification to me to be able truthfully to say that during all the long years of my service here, I have uniformly sustained friendly relations with every member of this body. There have been no personal differences between us; there have been clashes; there have been heated controversies in the debates between myself and some of my colleagues on the other side of the chamber and sometimes on this side of the chamber—but it was ever a warfare of men who honestly differed in opinions and in convictions. No senator has ever impugned my motives during that period, and I have never impugned those of any other senator. No one has dealt me a blow below the belt, and I have never dealt such a blow to any of

my colleagues.

One of the bright spots in my life is the cordial and delightful personal fellowship which has obtained all these years between myself and my colleagues on both sides of this chamber.

Mr. President, I have often thought that no greater blessing could be vouchsafed to any man than that of health and length of years. I have enjoyed both. One of the chief sources of happiness in this life is having a fixed and laudable purpose and working always toward its accomplishment. In purposeful work and service, man finds one of the chief sources of happiness in this life. That has been my ambition. I trust that I have never served from it and may never serve from it in the time that remains to me.

Mr. President, I am grateful for the good health and the long years that have been accorded me; grateful to my friends at home and here and throughout the country; for their support and encouragement in working out my career, whatever it has been; but I want here in this presence to make humble acknowledgment for the many blessings that I have received in this life, to Him, my mainstay and support in all the struggles, trials, and tribulations that have come to me throughout the vicissitudes of my strenuous and

sometimes stormy career.

Mr. President, I feel unequal adequately to express in language my deep appreciation of the gracious things that have today been said with respect to my colleague and myself.

Mr. Overman. Mr. President, on this occasion such tributes, such love, such sentiments, and such expressions are so overwhelming to me that I can not find language to tell my colleagues of my love and my gratitude for what they have said and what the occasion means to me.

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