NOT UNTO HIMSELF ALONE WAS HE BORN:

A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE LEGACY OF SENATOR MARK O. HATFIELD ’43 AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

JAN. 26, 2016, 5-7 P.M.
HUDSON HALL, MARY STUART ROGERS MUSIC CENTER, WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY
WELCOME
INTRODUCTIONS
PANEL DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

Gary Barbour ’76 was a staff assistant (1976-79) and staff member on two committees: Energy and Natural Resources (1979-84) and Appropriations (1984-90). He worked on a variety of energy plans including domestic oil and gas exploration, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. He is a principal at Barbour and Associates.

Walt Evans L67 was legal counsel (1969-78) and handled international trade issues and Japan-U.S. relations. He is a lawyer with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt in Portland where he focuses on regulatory matters on behalf of Pacific Northwest ports and clients.

Tom Getman was legislative assistant on human rights, social welfare and justice issues (1976-78) and legislative director with a focus on Africa and the Middle East (1978-85). He was a speechwriter on religion and politics and worked on legislation to impose sanctions against Uganda and South Africa. He is CEO/partner in the Getman Group.

Wes Granberg-Michaelson was executive assistant and chief legislative assistant (1968-76). He focused on anti-Vietnam War efforts, world food policy, a nuclear weapons moratorium and other international issues. He is general secretary emeritus of the Reformed Church in America and a published author.

Jack Robertson was legislative assistant and press secretary handling foreign affairs and defense policy (1973-82). He worked for the Bonneville Power Administration and served as acting administrator and deputy administrator (1986-99). He is CEO of Light Water, Inc., a hydrogen energy startup company he co-founded in 2010.

Rick Rolf was an intern; staff assistant; legislative assistant; senior foreign policy advisor; director of policy and communications; and campaign and advertising strategist (1978-91). His areas of focus included human rights and national security. He is a principal at Ascendant Stratagem Consulting and a senior fellow and adjunct professor at the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University.

MODERATOR

Christopher Foss ’07 is a visiting professor of history at Willamette University and a PhD candidate in history at the University of Colorado-Boulder. His forthcoming dissertation examines the role of senators (including Hatfield) and other federal and state-level officials from the Pacific Northwest in expanding defense spending and opening trade routes and migrant flows to the region during the post-World War II era.
Mark Odom Hatfield was born in Dallas, Oregon, on July 12, 1922, to Charles D. and Dovie Odom Hatfield. He grew up in the state capital of Salem and by high school was participating in local Republican political campaigns. A freshman at Willamette University when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941, Hatfield accelerated his study of political science in order to begin Navy combat training by late 1943. As a Lieutenant J.G. in the Navy, Hatfield witnessed some of the bloodiest battles of World War II and was one of the first U.S. military personnel to enter Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. These experiences, coupled with his deep Christian faith, influenced Hatfield's political philosophy, giving him a profound reverence for life and a passion for human rights that would prove a hallmark of his 46-year political career.

Hatfield's rise in politics was meteoric. He served in both houses of the Oregon Legislative Assembly (1951-57) and was Oregon's youngest elected secretary of state (1957-59) and governor (1959-67). As Oregon's first two-term governor of the 20th century, Hatfield directly impacted the lives of Oregonians by presiding over the construction of the Oregon interstate highway system; creating the statewide community college system and raising teacher salaries; promoting civil rights by creating a public defender system; and increasing workers' compensation benefits. Additionally, he spearheaded a range of environmental policies including fish conservation and pollution control.

In 1966 Hatfield was elected to the United States Senate. Throughout his five terms in the Senate (1967-97), Hatfield fought for a range of positions, making him difficult to classify politically. Hatfield was an early and outspoken critic of the Vietnam and Gulf wars, consistently opposing increases in defense spending, the U.S. nuclear program and U.S. military involvement abroad. Hatfield co-authored bills that led the White House to end the Vietman War and bring underground nuclear testing in the Nevada desert to a halt. His anti-war stance was so unwavering that he was called “the conscience of the Senate.” He was also a leading advocate of international human rights, speaking often on behalf of refugees.

Domestically, he championed civil rights and urged improvements to health, education and social service programs to address “the desperate human needs in our midst.” He was in favor of making moves toward a more decentralized federal government, proposing elimination of the Electoral College and adoption of “neighborhood government” to encourage participatory democracy. Hatfield fought earnestly throughout his career for environmental protection and conservation, including reforestation, the development of alternative energy and pollution control. He was a longtime defender of Native American tribes, serving on the Indian Review Commission to protect treaty rights on tribal lands.

Oregon's longest serving senator, Hatfield retired in 1997 after serving 30 years, having never lost an election. He picked up where his career first began, teaching politics — at Willamette University, Portland State University and George Fox University.

Hatfield's passion for politics was rivaled only by his passion for his family. He and Antoinette (Kuzmanich) Hatfield had four children: Elizabeth, Mark O. Jr. (“MarkO”), Theresa and Charles Vincent (“Visko”). In his autobiography Against the Grain, Hatfield thanks his children and especially his “true love,” Antoinette, stating, “the role of life partner is significant, yet often overlooked. Antoinette’s
support and contribution far exceed any of my words.” Hatfield passed away peacefully on August 7, 2011 at the age of 89.

The legacy of Mark Hatfield’s half century of public service is represented in the Mark O. Hatfield Papers held by the Willamette University Archives. The Hatfield Collection includes more than 2,000 linear feet of correspondence, memoranda, legislative files, speeches, schedules, campaign records, scrapbooks, photographs, video and audiotapes, memorabilia and artifacts. The collection is significant because it spans and documents Hatfield’s entire career, beginning with his time as dean of students at Willamette through his distinguished 30 years in the Senate. The Mark O. Hatfield Papers will be open for research upon completion of processing and in accordance with donor stipulations.

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