

LONG VIEW: Kennedy's cross-aisle work has riled Democrats and Republicans

the Judiciary Committee will take up immigration debate again. Watch for o play a pivotal role—if perhaps not the t conspicuous one. “You can accom a lot if you’re not necessarily out in t on everything,” he says.

ST: TED KENNEDY

ie Dealmaker

VER 43 YEARS IN THE SENATE, DEMOCRAT Ted Kennedy has fought serial battles on behalf of the working class—from defending overtime pay workplace-safety regulations to ex- ding health care and penalizing dis- ination. But the key to his legacy is not he is determined to stick up for his ciples. It’s that he is willing to compro- e on them. Late in 1990, for example, Kennedy sat faced as House Democrat Pat Schroe- berated him for supporting something didn’t believe in: caps on damages for kplace discrimination. But by agreeing mits, Kennedy won over the handful of ublican and Southern Democratic ators he needed to secure passage of Civil Rights Act of 1991, strengthening s that banned job discrimination. The ult was a law that protects women from ial harassment at work and has yielded urge in lawsuits and tens of millions of ars in damages to aggrieved plaintiffs. Kennedy was a bit of a joke when he arrived in Washington in 1962. When n F. Kennedy was elected President in 0, he kept his Massachusetts Senate seat m for his youngest sibling, placing a col-

lege buddy in it for two years until Teddy reached the constitutionally required age of 30. But starting with a 1965 bill that did away with country-by-country quotas for immigrants, and especially in the quarter-century since his failed 1980 campaign for President, Kennedy, 74, has amassed a t- itanic record of legislation affecting the lives of virtually every man, woman and child in the country. With a succession of Republicans, he helped create COBRA, the Americans with Disabilities Act, portable health care, the Family and Medical Leave Act and more than 15 key education programs, including the landmark 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act. He also pushed through the deregulation of the airline and trucking industries and the reduction of the voting age to 18. By the late ’90s, the liberal icon had become such a prodigious cross-aisle dealer that Re- publican leaders began pressuring party colleagues not to sponsor bills with him. Some bipartisan efforts have backfired on Kennedy. He has complained that he was taken in by Bush on the No Child Left Behind law because it was inadequately funded, and Democrats are distressed that he has collaborated with Republicans on immigration reform. Worse than that, critics say, Kennedy’s inability to stop the confirmation of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito show he’s losing his swat. But Kennedy still finds a way to deliver the goods for the less advantaged. Over the next five years, more than 100,000 severely disabled children will become beneficiaries of a new \$872 million program that continues government health-care pay- ments to them even as they move out of

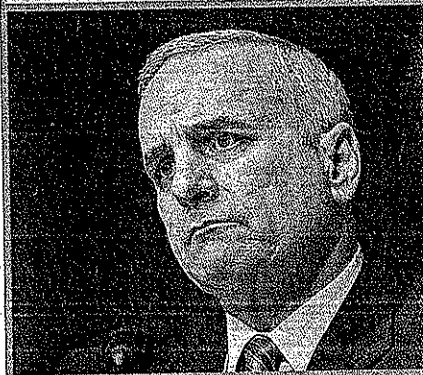
WORST: MARK DAYTON

The Blunderer



When he was elected in 2000, Minnesota Democrat Mark Dayton seemed well prepared, having worked as an aide to Walter Mondale in the 1970s.

But he has exhibited erratic behavior since then: in October 2004 he shut down his office for almost a month, citing an unspecified terrorist threat. The 99 other Senators had access to the same intelligence and kept their offices open, even while Dayton went on television to tell his constituents not to visit the Capitol. In February Dayton, 59, made another notable blunder. The Mayo Clinic, which is in Rochester, Minn., was opposed to a South Dakota-based company’s plan to expand its railroads into Rochester because it



ROBERT TRUPELTT—SIPA

would mean dozens of trains passing by the clinic each day. Dayton told FORTUNE magazine the Mayo Clinic is “worth a hell of a lot more than the whole state of South Dakota.” He later apologized for the remark. Inside the Senate, Dayton has passed few bills partly because some are too liberal for the Republican-controlled body, including one that would have created a Department of Peace and Nonviolence. He has confounded his colleagues by complaining about basic facts of the job, such as his limited power in a chamber where authority derives from seniority. He announced early last year that he wouldn’t seek re-election.



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