

* HOW TO DEFER LIKE A GENTLEMAN

Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.), the longest-serving senator in the history of the United States (forty-seven years), explains how to maintain an air of gentility on a Hill more poisoned by partisanship than ever

Always address other senators in the third person. Speak to “the senator from Illinois/Indiana/Michigan.” When we call one another “You! You! You!” it’s as if we’re pointing fingers.... I don’t lose my temper. I can get into a very rigorous debate and

still keep my cool. When I was majority leader, I’d leave the floor with Howard Baker [R-Tenn.] with my arm around his shoulder, and I still do that today with people like John Warner [R-Va.], who’s a great gentleman. We need to get back to that, back

to making the Senate a place for cooler heads where debates are not personal attacks. Partisanship’s all right, political parties are okay, but they’re not the alpha and omega.... Smile. That’s my best weapon. A smile unravels those who have tempers.... I have to realize that I can be wrong—and when I do, I’m gonna apologize, and I’m not gonna wait for the sun to set. I have often found that the person most opposed to me one day might—the next day—be the best friend I have in the Senate. He or she might come to my aid. I have to keep that in mind: Today’s not the last day in the Senate. There’ll always be a tomorrow.—HOWIE KAHN