

A National Loss.

THE untimely death of Senator Morris Sheppard, who for 39 years had represented Texas in Congress, constitutes a well-nigh irreparable loss to the Nation, a loss which is shared by his home State, the Administration, and the Democratic party. The deficit created by the removal of the wisdom of experience from national councils is not made up by election of a man to the place of the dead leader.

The initial blow falls upon the vitally important Senate Military Affairs Committee, of which Senator Sheppard was chairman, and which has been vitally employed in recent months in defense planning and enactment. Senator Sheppard's dominant position in the Senate has been a large factor in the distribution of army camps and defense plants according to a system of decentralization which promises greatly increased efficiency of defense. The Texas Senator held other important congressional posts, among them being membership of Senate committees dealing with commerce, irrigation and reclamation, manufactures, and various economic activities. He long had been an active proponent of rivers and harbors improvement, and was a strong supporter of the Trinity watershed development program.

Senator Sheppard's 39 years in Congress brought to him the title of "dean" of the Senate. To that valuable element of seniority were added the maturity of judgment and settled wisdom that come best with years. He was a prodigious worker, who stayed at his task from early morning till past nightfall. Among his pre-emergency accomplishments were his sponsorship of the suffrage amendment, of national prohibition, and maternity aid. Senator Sheppard had the ear and respect of all classes, from national leaders to the humblest worker. To legitimate appeals of all classes, he gave equal attention.

As one of the few trustworthy leaders remaining of the previous "war Congress," Senator Sheppard's experience fitted him peculiarly for service in the present defense emergency. He was both a wise counsellor and useful aid of the President and the military department of the Government. In him were summed up the virtues of the good citizen, the patriot, the statesman, the national leader, and the efficient public servant.

Senator Sheppard's unwavering loyalty stood out in the current period of national conflict. He was faithful to his country, its Government, his State, his party, his friends, and his family. In the intimate grief of the last, the Nation extends its sympathetic affection.

The Nation has lost a staunch servant who, at the same time, was endowed with the highest qualities of leadership. To the multitude of Senator Sheppard's friends and admirers, his death brings a feeling of personal loss as well as realization that a blow has fallen upon the country as a whole.

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