



February 2007

Fellow Senators & Friends,

It is just four weeks ago since I became Chairman of the British Senate at Peter's superb drumming out in Llandudno. Since then we have attended the Swedish Chain Changing Dinner Weekend in Jonkoping and attended the funeral of Pat McManus, our beloved Past Chairman.

These three events certainly bring home the importance of the standing and the heritage of the British Senate both at home and internationally.

Our programme has been published and you will be receiving your personal copy within the newsletter posting which went out last week. Notwithstanding the event flyers in the Newsletter all the events are readily available on the superb website www.britishsenate.org.uk

There is plenty to look forward to and I am pleased to say as a starter we have 42 people already booked for the Northern Ireland event for the weekend of 9th to 11th March 2007. Diane Hunniford and Marretta Coleman are now working on the Northern Ireland Senators!

There are two milestone events; these being the 50th Crayfish Party in Halmstad Sweden in August and 50th Anniversary of JCI Ireland in October. Both are special opportunities to mark these Golden Anniversaries in style.

The programme shows the number of people it takes to make the year successful. There are twenty three people directly responsible for delivering this year's programme with many others making it happen behind those headline names. I am delighted to welcome Marretta Coleman, Julie Blakey, Janice Hadfield and Frank Shackelford on to this year's Council. Similarly I am sorry to see Gavin Macpherson, Chris Edge and Yvonne Thomas leave after much excellent service.

The Senate and JCI UK have tended to be two separate entities with different objectives. It is interesting to see in countries, for example, such as Norway and Sweden the two organisations tend work more closely. As senators, particularly when passing the eligible age it is important to remember our roots and why we find ourselves as members of such a privileged "club".

Therefore the British Senate will be working more closely with Amanda Fitzsimmons and her team in strengthening JCI UK. We have agreed on the two broad areas where we will work together of mentoring and training. As senators there is so much we are able to offer to support our younger colleagues.

As a small example my own company has agreed to be a patron of Manchester Junior Chamber of Commerce where one of our staff is already a member. We have attended their president's dinner and we promote their superb training programme to our own staff. We have deliberately given the link role to one of younger members of staff making them, in turn, a potential Chamber member. When you think about it there is so much we can do to make the juniors life so much better.

Coming back to Pat McManus's recent passing; her funeral reminds me of how we British pull together in adversity. There were senators young and old in attendance and there was a tremendous feeling of togetherness in celebrating the loss of one our special people. We

do not fully appreciate the quality of people until they have gone. That was certainly true in Pat's case, our first lady British Senate Chairman in 1985; her achievements are remarkable. In looking around last Wednesday it brought it home to me how many special people there are in this organisation. By very definition Senatorships are awarded to those who make a special contribution.

I have chosen the theme of More with Less in 2007. This could also have been Fellowship with Fulfillment because our work with JCI UK and our International Colleagues certainly provides the sense of fulfillment. I wouldn't say the electronic age has passed me by but it is certainly not the be all in my life. Hence I am keen that people talk more because I see emails as a very effective means of information transmittal. I do not see it as a means of effective communication. That is achieved by talking to each other. Therefore I urge you all to make the effort to meet and talk to each other more often with less emails.

One of my objectives is to make the job of British Senate Chairman more accessible to others by making sure I try to get the balance right between the personal, business and Senate lives. However I must play my part in making sure the job is accessible to those who are able and want to do it because that is the future of our organisation.

Jokingly I recall the quote "I don't care to belong to a club that accepts people like me as members". In all seriousness I am very proud to be your Chairman. You can be assured I will do my damndest for the Senate organisation and I very much look forward to meeting friends and colleagues wherever I go.

In Senate Friendship

Phil Spring

Phil Spring 40459
British Senate Chairman 2007

**Senators - Strengthen JCI UK by joining the Mentoring & Training Programme now-
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