



UNITED STATES -NEW ZEALAND
COUNCIL

Hail and Farewell

As most of the recipients of this Newsletter know, I announced at the Council's Annual General Meeting last May that I would be stepping down as President of the Council at the end of the year. Many of you also are aware of the highly successful search for my successor Bill Maroni, who has been on the job since we left for an introductory trip to New Zealand in mid-November. Bill will formally take over January 1.

I am very excited that Bill was chosen to take over the Council. By every measure the Council has gotten to a new level of influence in the US-NZ relationship and is broadly acknowledged, especially through the Partnership Forum, to have contributed significantly to vast improvement in the relationship that has occurred in recent years. Nevertheless, I believe the Council is poised to reach still another new level and Bill Maroni is the right person to lead it there.

Bill has an outstanding background in private and public sector positions, as a high level appointee in the Reagan and first Bush Administrations in the White House, USTR, and the Department of Labor. He has broad international and trade experience. Bill has hit the ground running and has impressed not only the diverse group of NZ leaders we met in Auckland and Wellington in November but also already has met with many Council board and corporate members. Bill knows how Washington works; he has the energy and ideas necessary to move the Council forward.

Past, Present, and Future



I have deeply appreciated the loyal support of the Council board, corporate members, corporate sponsors of events, Forum co-chairs and participants, the NZUS Council and all our New Zealand friends, and many other recipients of these Newsletters who in various ways have

provided valuable support to me and the Council over the past seven and a half years. It is impossible to name all the individuals who have made major contributions or to identify all the milestones and highlights of my time at the Council, so I will mention only a few as representative, omitting titles for individuals, distinguished as they deservedly are.

My two predecessors as President, Paul Cleveland and Fred Benson, provided the platform, counsel and advice I hope to offer to Bill Maroni as he settles in to lead the Council. As an early architect of the Council who has remained as Chairman, Paul has provided continuity and leadership that made my job easier. Equally important to the success of our US-NZ "joint venture" have been Jim Bolger, Stephen Jacobi, and Gabrielle Rush, our Forum partners in creating these remarkable and

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important events, and Roy Ferguson, NZ's Ambassador for the majority of my time at the Council. While partners in a



business sense, one doesn't accomplish what we did together without a bond of trust and friendship that went beyond the venture. All now are life-long friends.

While there are many milestones since I joined the Council in 2004, four stand out:

- The launch of the Friends of New Zealand Caucus in the House in 2005, which the Council helped organize.
- The creation of the Partnership Forum in 2006, with each Forum – in 2007, 2009 and 2011 – building on the success of the prior one.
- The two receptions and dinners for Prime Ministers – Helen Clark in 2007 and John Key in 2010.
- The entry and re-entry of the United States into the TPP by the Bush and Obama Administrations.



Each milestone had its heroes – Ellen Tauscher and Jim Kolbe who started the Caucus in the House and Rick Larsen and Kevin Brady who succeeded them.

All participated in several Partnership Forums and it was Rick, with Susan Schwab, who suggested scheduling the Christchurch Forum to permit a CoDel to participate and was the moving force in getting them there.

The Partnership Forum started with modest goals but quickly became the preeminent public-private sector event in the relationship. The inaugural Forum in Washington provided a platform in 2006 for Chris Hill to give a landmark speech and Rich Armitage and Randy Schriver to write a provocative Op Ed challenging the status quo.

After that Forum, co-chair Clayton Yeutter famously said that in all his time in Washington he had never seen so much intellectual horsepower come to this city from one country at one time. At



the Auckland Forum in 2007, then Leader of the Opposition, John Key, said the Forums were "ahead of the curve in terms of the US/NZ relationship" and that "It

makes sense to find occasions such as this – close to, but not formally part of government – to allow a free flow of ideas.”

Along with everyone associated with the Forum, I am grateful to



Forum co-chairs Jim Bolger, Mike Moore, and Michael Cullen on the NZ side; Clayton Yeutter, Susan Schwab, George Mitchell, Tom Vilsack, Cal Dooley, and Evan Bayh on the US side. Through the Forum and beyond, Clayton and Cal, both Council Torchbearer Award recipients along with Jim Bolger, Mike Moore, and Chris Hill, and Susan Schwab especially have stood out as champions of the relationship.

The high level current and former government officials from both countries, chairs, CEOs, and other key executives from business, finance, and associations, and other NZ and American opinion leaders who spoke, discussed, networked and bonded at the Forums are obviously too many to mention but their contributions made a difference. Council corporate members and event sponsors also are too numerous to mention, but seven of them, both members and sponsors of all four Forums, should be: Boeing, Fonterra, Time Warner, Pernod Ricard, the US Chamber, Air New Zealand, and WestPac. Details for all the Forums can be found on the Council’s new website www.usnzcouncil.org.

The receptions and dinners for Prime Ministers Helen Clark in 2007 and John Key in 2010 were both associated with Presidential invitations and were the only evening social events on their calendars. Both combined



intimacy and warmth with important remarks to assembled friends of New Zealand and key players in trade, security and the relationship. The dinner for Mr. Key as well as the gala dinner for the 2009 Partnership Forum were held at the NZ Embassy, both setting new marks for attendance in that space.

The decision by the Bush Administration to enter the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade negotiations and the decision by the Obama Administration, following a lengthy review, to continue them symbolized the growing importance for the United States of Asia and the Asia Pacific. The United States turn to the Pacific, its recognition of New Zealand’s leadership in trade, and the progress in the bilateral relationship in areas well beyond trade which culminated in the Wellington Declaration signed by Secretary Clinton and Minister McCully in November 2010 have flowed from the quiet initiatives of Chris Hill, Condoleezza Rice, Kurt Campbell and Hillary Clinton, Phil Goff, Murray McCully, Tim Groser, and John McKinnon, their superiors, subordinates and colleagues. It also has happily coincided with meetings, conferences and events the Council and its NZ counterpart have organized and hosted. We have

met and mingled with all the major players – and played a role. It has been a great ride.



As I often have said over the past several months, at the NZUS Council AGM in Auckland in November and at the Council’s Hail and Farewell dinner for Bill and me this month, one of the most satisfying aspects of my time at the Council has been the privilege of meeting and working closely with 19 interns – 13 of them NZ students either part time while at American University or full time during their summer (winter here) break. Since I did not have any paid staff for over half my time at the Council, I depended heavily on these smart, hard working, creative young people who without exception proved themselves invaluable to the Council’s very existence. I remain in close touch with almost all the Kiwis, four of whom participated in the Future Partners Forum in Christchurch. They have formed an exclusive Council Alumni Facebook page to which I have been admitted. All will be future champions of the US-NZ relationship.

Finally, if the bonds and friendships that have been forged over these years already were among the most memorable of a lifetime, the bonds forged in the wake of the earthquake that suddenly ended the Christchurch Partnership Forum will never be forgotten. Every American who was in Christchurch continues to grieve



with all New Zealanders over the anguish and ongoing struggle of that beautiful city. The American Forum participants without exception remember the Forum as one of the best conferences they have attended but they also remember the leadership and small acts of courage as by foot, car, bus and finally a C-130 we left a city in great pain. Through the “American Friends of Christchurch” spearheaded by Peter Watson, and the generosity of Americans linked to New Zealand in a variety of ways, the AFOC has channeled over \$2 million through a Council account established for the city’s restoration.

I hope I will be able to remain in touch with all of you. On an interim basis the best ways to reach me are at MullenJE@aol.com and my mobile phone 703 980-9481. With anything close to the support and loyalty you have shown to me, I have no doubt that Bill Maroni will lead the Council to still another new level of success. With every good wish for 2012,

