



(The Apple Daily)

**Long Live Senator No
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(Translation)**

More than 500 people spent an evening in a Washington hotel in late September to attend a banquet. The guest of honor was not a current political superstar and the tickets were not cheap either. They're all loyal conservative disciples with one thing in mind: to honor former Senator Jesse Helms.

President Ronald Reagan and Senator Helms must be the two most hated right-wing conservatives in the eyes of the left-wing liberals. During my young and ignorant days, I also blindly followed the left-wing liberals' "wisdom" and believed the Republican Senator from North Carolina was exhibit A of conservative ignorance and evilness. He's public enemy number 1 of all "good, upright and progressive" people. Now I share many right-wingers' view of President Reagan and Senator Helms being the greatest conservatives in contemporary America.

It's very ironic that one of the people who helped me repent from left to right was Senator Helms. Every time when China was discussed, how come my leftist "comrades" were so naively wrong while the most "reactionary" Helms was so precisely correct? This question of mine finally led me to realize that the left-wing liberals were also very wrong on other issues.

I saw three Chinese faces at the banquet. Two of them were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wu. Mr. Wu was instrumental in adding the Chinese word "laogai" into the English lexicon. He told me that it's Senator Helms' credit to hold the first ever hearing on laogai in Congress in 1990.

In his freshly published memoir "Here's Where I Stand," Senator Helms talked about his 84-year experience with an emphasis on his five Senate terms from 1972 to 2003.

Many speakers at the banquet praised the conservative warrior. One of them, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick, mentioned that Senator Helms was a firm supporter of Taiwan.

The third Chinese I saw at the banquet was Dr. Jaw-Ling Joanne Chang, deputy representative of the "Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in U.S.A" (Taiwan Embassy). It's entirely proper for Taiwan to have someone attending the evening. Senator Helms has been consistently anti-Communist China and pro-Taiwan.

From the “Taiwan Security Enhancement Act,” Taiwan retaining its seat at the Asian Development Bank to Taiwan leaders transiting through the U.S., Senator Helms was always very helpful.

Senator Helms wrote in his memoir: “How the issue of Taiwan is dealt with will continue to be one of our great challenges, and is of such importance that I felt compelled in this book to deal with it separately.” He accused Henry Kissinger and President Jimmy Carter of ignoring the strong opposition from the U.S. Congress to betray Taiwan. Senator Helms called it a “secret campaign against the American people.”

Senator Helms was sad to see “an interest in economic gain has trumped our concern for” principles. He warned Americans not be misled by China’s mere tactical political maneuvers and every effort should be made to prevent Beijing from swallowing Taiwan.

The people of Hong Kong should recognize well what Senator Helms said about their city: “The record of China’s failed promises to the people of Hong Kong cannot be ignored when they offer their solutions to the ‘Taiwan issue.’ The one country/two systems option held out to the citizens of Hong Kong has proven to be a worthless and malicious promise. Each passing month has seen new examples of repression that expose the unwillingness of a Communist regime to risk even the smallest pocket of freedom. The ‘democratic reforms’ that the citizens of Hong Kong were promised have been delayed and diminished over and over – in violation of their own laws.

“If one city cannot be allowed to have local democratic rule, how could anyone expect that Taiwan would be allowed to continue to live in freedom as a part of the Chinese Republic? Clearly, the fate of a democracy can never be put in the hands of a totalitarian regime.”

President George W. Bush, in a taped message broadcasted at the banquet, praised Senator Helms for willing to take a stand and take the heat by casting the only No vote vs. 99 Yes votes in the chamber. A newspaper from his home state dubbed Senator Helms “Senator No.”

I also have to say “thank you” to this conservative giant who dares to say no to Communist China.