

## **Select Quotes from former US Senator from NJ Clifford P. Case**

### **Definition of Politics**

Source: Vanessa Jefferson and Larry Kling, “To One Friend, Clifford Case was a Gem”, Central Jersey Home News, March 7, 1982, p. D10

Politics is “the job of helping people meet their problems, keeping them from destroying each other, checking their bad instincts and encouraging their good ones.”

### **On Challenging Prejudice Against Minorities in the USA**

Source: Case’s first speech in the House of Representatives, June 12, 1945

“...whenever we of the majority in this country permit such sentiments to go unchallenged, not only are we guilty of a wrong to the minority groups concerned but we risk the greater anger of brutalizing ourselves.”

### **Combating Campaign Smears against His Sister Published in the Newark Star-Ledger**

Source: Televised Remarks by Senate Candidate Clifford Case, WNBT-TV, October 17, 1954

“I have just one thing to say to these character-murderers: Adelaide Case is not running for the Senate of the United States. Clifford Case is the candidate. Smear me if you can. Leave my sister alone.”

### **On the Importance of the Individual, November 1960**

Source: Remarks at 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Six Mile Run Reformed Church, November 15, 1960

“And the chief one is to practice, in our own lives, in our national life, in our international life, our belief in the true importance of the individual. This means, of course, recognizing that every human being is entitled to be treated equally, that any kind of discrimination, any kind of prejudice, any kind of hate, based upon any extraneous considerations, is not only wrong but a sin, an act of profanity. And that any time we consciously hurt anyone else on such a ground, or any ground, we

are committing an act of profanity against God, as well as against that individual, and that we degrade ourselves.”

### **On the Importance of Financial Disclosure by Public Officials, 1964**

Source: Senate Floor Speech by Senator Clifford Case, July 7, 1964

“The time has come in the field of public affairs, as it came in the past few decades in the field of private corporate affairs, to put an end to all short cuts to big lot, to easy money, to the “fast buck.” Can there be any surer way of ending wheeling and dealing and influence peddling than by taking the profit out of it?”

### **A Journalist’s Perspective on Senator Case**

Source: Excerpts from Jim Testa, “New Jersey’s Favorite Son”, Rutgers Daily Targum, September 18, 1973

“There is a deep feeling that here is a man with humanity and compassion, a man who has been labeled a liberal. Liberal is a political label, and often a false one. Case is a man who voted the environmental ticket before it was fashionable, not because of a commitment to an abstract ideal called “ecology” but because he loves the earth. A man who has voted and spoken out against racism and greed and sickness, who has tried to get the Senate to help the young, the old, the infirm— anyone who cannot fend for themselves. Not because of a commitment to “liberality”, but because of a dedication to helping people...Mark Twain once commented that if America has a native criminal class, it is Congress. To that I might reply if America has a worthwhile native son, it is Clifford Case.”

Note: With the exception of the Central Jersey Home News source the excerpts provided here can be accessed at this URL:

<https://exhibits.libraries.rutgers.edu/clifford-p-case/exhibition-checklist>