

Alan K. Simpson: Nothing Else Matters

Premieres Monday, February 28, 2011
10 p.m. ET on PBS

*"If you have integrity, nothing else matters.
If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters."*
Senator Alan Simpson, WY

"If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters." That's the perspective Senator Alan Simpson brings to life and politics. Monday, February 28 at 10 p.m. ET, PBS will be airing a one-hour documentary titled "**Alan K. Simpson: Nothing Else Matters**", on this entertaining and profound statesman.

Simpson is renowned for his humor and frankness, often focused on volatile issues like Social Security and immigration. Most recently, he served as co-chair of President Barack Obama's deficit reduction commission, developing a controversial roadmap for cutting the federal budget.

Reflecting on nearly half a century of public service, Simpson offers an uncensored and privileged view – as a close friend to Presidents and a key congressional leader – on some of the historic moments and most volatile issues of America's late 20th century, from the radioactive leak at the Three Mile Island Nuclear plant, to the Gulf War in 1990.

The documentary also explores, with both his friends and opponents, how this press favorite revealed a dark and angry side when he defended Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas against Anita Hill's charges. In addition to the controversial Thomas hearings, a deeper look at the former senator's oversight on the Three Mile Island nuclear plant crisis, national immigration reform work, and how he faced down the AARP over changing social security provides additional insight into this controversial public figure.

The documentary was developed over a three year period by Wyoming PBS producer Geoffrey O'Gara, a journalist and author who covered Simpson's career in both Washington and Wyoming.

Culled from many hours of conversation, the documentary tells Simpson's story in his own inimitable words. But there are other voices as well: former President George H.W. Bush, Senator Ted Kennedy in one of his last interviews before his death, Senator Trent Lott, former Vice President Dick Cheney, National Public Radio's Nina Totenberg, NBC journalist Pete Williams, well known attorney Gerry Spence, and even David McCullough.

-30-

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