

Israel Public Affairs Committee; United Israel Appeal; and the United Jewish Appeal.

Mr. President, Max Karl was a man who used his time on this Earth fully and judiciously, and in so doing he created a rich legacy that will stand forever. He improved the lives of many, many thousands of people. He was greatly respected and much loved. He will be missed.

#### HONORING RALPH NEAS

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Ralph Neas, an outstanding leader for civil rights, who is being honored this evening by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

Tonight, as the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights [LCCR] celebrates its 45th anniversary as the Nation's oldest, largest and most broadly based civil rights coalition, Ralph Neas will be awarded the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award for his "selfless and devoted service in the cause of equality." During his 14-year tenure as the executive director of the Leadership Conference, Ralph has been a voice of compassion and reason and a tireless advocate for equality. Dubbed the "101st Senator on Civil Rights" by Senator EDWARD KENNEDY, for his successful coordination of the lobbying efforts of 180 national organizations in the LCCR and for playing a major role in the passage of more than two dozen legislative victories, Ralph has demonstrated his effectiveness as a coalition builder. From the enactment of the 1982 Voting Rights Act extension to the recent enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, his efforts have truly made a difference with respect to securing civil rights for millions of Americans.

Ralph's role in the civil rights community has not been limited to advocacy for the legislative arm of the civil rights community. In addition to his lobbying and legal research efforts, Ralph took on the role of executive director of the Leadership Conference Educational Fund. This independent organization supports numerous educational activities relevant to civil rights such as: an award winning public service advertising campaign promoting tolerance and diversity; a children's anti-discrimination campaign; and the publication of books and reports on emerging civil rights issues.

Today, when our country is increasingly a mixture of races, languages and religions, I am delighted to pay tribute to the efforts of an individual who recognizes the importance of both preserving and celebrating the diversity of our society. The reality is that America is essentially a pair of ideals—liberty and equality. However, these are ideals that are still unrealized. To realize these ideals we need to recognize that our increasing ethnic and racial diversity is a remarkable opportunity. We need to recognize that we will either all advance together, or each of us will be diminished. Ralph Neas has spent

the better part of a distinguished career working to ensure that—no matter the color of our skin, the shape of our eyes, our religion, our gender—we all advance together. I salute Ralph Neas for the dedication and leadership he has so generously given to the civil rights community and congratulate him on being awarded the Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award.

#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before contemplating today's bad news about the Federal debt, let's do our little pop quiz once more:

Question: How many million dollars are in \$1 trillion? While you are arriving at an answer, bear in mind that it was the U.S. Congress that ran up the Federal debt that now exceeds \$4.8 trillion.

To be exact, as of the close of business Tuesday, May 2, the exact Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at \$4,859,125,275,200.95. This means that every man, woman and child in America now owes \$18,445.32 computed on a per-capita basis.

Mr. President, back to the pop quiz: How many million in a trillion? There are a million million in a trillion.

#### TUFTONIA'S WEEK AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to commend Tufts University in Medford, MA, which 2 weeks ago celebrated its 11th annual Tuftonia's Week events. During this week each year, graduates of Tufts from around the world join together to remember and honor their outstanding university.

Tufts was founded in 1852 and now has over 8,000 students from all 50 States and 213 foreign countries. The university's main campus in Medford/Somerville is home to the college of liberal arts, the graduate school, the school of nutrition, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, among others. The school of medicine and dentistry is on the Boston campus, and the Grafton campus houses the only school of veterinary medicine in New England.

I am proud to note that this year, the theme of Tuftonia's Week is community service. Many alumni celebrated the occasion by volunteering and helping to improve life in their neighborhoods. Among universities in Massachusetts, Tufts has taken an impressive leadership role in promoting community service and by integrating opportunities for such service into the academic curriculum.

The Tuftonia's Week celebration has a special meaning for me, because my daughter is one of more than 85,000 Tufts graduates. I am honored to take this opportunity to congratulate the president, John DiBiaggio, and the rest of the Tufts community for their impressive accomplishments.

#### A GREAT PHYSICIAN AND A TRUE PIONEER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Ray Stowers, D.O., a constituent of mine. Dr. Stowers, a native Oklahoman, is an osteopathic, family practice physician from Medford, OK, who is a true example of the pioneer spirit in America.

In the pioneer spirit, Ray's contributions have resulted in so many "firsts" in his life, both for the State of Oklahoma, for the osteopathic medical profession, and for the patients that he has reached into the rural communities to help.

It is because of his most recent "first", that I rise today to congratulate Ray on his recent appointment to the Physician Payment Review Commission [PPRC]. Ray Stowers represents what is best about medicine and physicians in America today. During a time when the trend to become a specializing physician is so strong and promises such great rewards, Ray Stowers has remained dedicated to the path of providing solo, rural, family medicine for 21 years. Yet from this path, Ray has been able to pioneer programs that enhance the numbers of physicians who share this important commitment.

One of Ray's many successes occurred when the Governor of Oklahoma appointed him to serve on the board of the Task Force and Rural Planning Committee which was responsible for advising the Governor on the State's health care manpower needs, and for convening a statewide conference to discuss rural health care delivery issues.

As well, Ray had the vision to see Oklahoma's need for rural health clinics, ensuring care for Oklahoma's hardest to reach populations. While he saw the need for, and began, the first rural health clinics in this State, within 5 years that number had burgeoned into 38 rural health clinics. Now, Oklahoma's hard-to-reach and underserved communities are assured access to a doctor and good medical care.

In addition to his many appointments, since 1993, Dr. Stowers also has been a presence on the American Medical Association Relative Value Update Committee [RUC]. As the first osteopathic physician appointed to serve on this prestigious committee, Ray has facilitated greater understanding, collaboration, and teamwork between the osteopathic medical profession and the allopathic physician community, and has lent his considerable expertise on physician practices to the RUC proceedings.

Dr. Stowers has served his family, his profession, his community, and his State with strength and integrity that symbolizes a modern pioneer. Dr. Stowers, the great State of Oklahoma is proud of your accomplishments. And

I am honored to join your family and friends and colleagues in wishing you every success as you embark on your next journey; serving on the Physician Payment Review Commission.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY AND LEGAL REFORM ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 956, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 956) to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

(1) Gorton amendment No. 596, in the nature of a substitute.

(2) Dole modified amendment No. 617 (to amendment No. 596) to provide for certain limitations on punitive damages.

(3) Dorgan amendment No. 619 (to amendment No. 617) to establish uniform standards for the awarding of punitive damages.

(4) Shelby/Heflin amendment No. 621 (to amendment No. 617) to provide that a defendant may be liable for certain damages if the alleged harm to a claimant is death and certain damages are provided under State law.

(5) DeWine amendment No. 622 (to amendment No. 617) to provide protection for individuals, small business, charitable organizations and other small entities from excessive punitive damage awards.

(6) DeWine amendment No. 623 (to amendment No. 617), regarding asset disclosure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour for debate equally divided and controlled by the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] and the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] or their designees, prior to any votes ordered on or in relation to the Dole amendment No. 616.

Mr. FEINGOLD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BUDGET DELAY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I add my voice of concern over the delay in action of the Federal budget. It is now May 3. That is over a month after the April 1 deadline for the Budget Committee to report a concurrent resolution on the budget. It is also nearly 3 weeks after the April 15 deadline for Congress to have completed its work on that concurrent budget resolution.

I raise my concern, Mr. President, knowing that not every budget deadline has always been met, nor do I suggest that the task facing the Budget

Committee is an easy one. It is a very tough one. But by this time, during the two sessions of the 103d Congress, we had considered and passed a concurrent budget resolution through the Senate.

In 1994, we passed the Senate version of the concurrent budget resolution on March 25, and agreed to a conference report on May 12.

Moreover, those concurrent budget resolutions contained politically tough deficit reduction provisions, and were submitted, debated, and passed at a time when a new administration was taking office—the first Presidential party change in 12 years.

Mr. President, many of us on this side of the aisle are ready to help craft a budget that will eliminate the Federal deficit.

We have demonstrated that we are willing to vote for politically unpopular proposals to lower the deficit.

In 1993, when we were the majority party, we developed and passed a \$500 billion deficit reduction package.

We are still very sorry that no member of what was then the minority party decided to support that package, though it was certainly the right of each Senator to vote as they saw fit.

Beyond the individual right of minority members, though, during the 103d Congress it was our responsibility as the majority party to advance a budget, not the responsibility of those on the other side of the aisle who were in the minority at the time.

Mr. President, it is the responsibility of the majority party to propose, refine, and pass a budget, with or without the help of members of the minority. We want to be a part of that process and to cooperate. But it is first the responsibility of the majority.

It is the privilege of the minority party to respond, offer alternatives, and, when conscience requires, to dissent from the budget proposal.

Such is the political dynamic of our legislative process.

And our colleagues on the other side of the aisle exercised their privilege as the minority party in 1993, and refused to join us in making that tough deficit reduction vote.

Mr. President, the two parties have exchanges roles in the 104th Congress, but the duty of the majority party remains unchanged.

It is the majority party that sets the agenda, proposes a budget, and finds a way to pass that budget.

By contrast to the last Congress, however, I know a number of us in the minority are willing to support a budget resolution that reduces the deficit.

We will help shoulder the burden of passing a budget that reduces the deficit.

But, Mr. President, before we can provide that cooperation, we must have a budget to work with.

The choices that face us are already extremely difficult.

Each day we delay they become even harder.

We are all very much aware of how our budget problems are accelerating,

and what delay means in lost fiscal opportunities.

But delay also risks the political consensus that must be achieved if we are to make significant progress on the deficit.

Mr. President, without public support, we cannot hope to find the votes for a balanced budget.

I don't mean to suggest that we can only pass a budget if the American people are enthusiastically behind every provision.

That is not going to happen when doing spending cuts.

If we could find such a proposal, we would have balanced the budget a long time ago.

Nor do the American people expect or even want such a budget.

They rightly are skeptical of those who promise easy solutions.

Mr. President, what the American people do want is to feel that their elected Representatives are being straightforward and open with them about what they propose.

They will not support a budget that is the product of closed-door meetings, held in the dead of night.

But they will support a budget that is openly debated.

They are willing to sacrifice if they feel that the process has been open and fair.

Mr. President, this budget delay really amounts to a budget blackout.

The longer the delay, the longer the blackout, and the less likely that we will be able to build the political consensus with the American public that we will need to balance the budget.

#### COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY AND LEGAL REFORM ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. HEFLIN addressed the chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I would like to address the Dole amendment and its relationship to other parts of the bill.

The Dole amendment, of course, extends the provisions of this proposed bill to all civil actions involving interstate commerce. That includes almost every automobile accident, and every conceivable type of accident, not just product liability cases. And, as we know, the language "interstate commerce" has been so liberally construed up until the very recent Lopez case that it includes almost any situation. There are many examples, too numerous to cite here, that can demonstrate the liberal construction of the interstate commerce clause.

Let me first recite the provision not only in the Dole amendment but in the overall bill pertaining to punitive damages, that if you seek punitive damages and any party can call for a bifurcated trial which means that at the request