Mr. President, under Senator PRESSLER's leadership the Commerce Committee also produced, and the Congress has now passed and sent to the President, reauthorization legislation for the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Trade Commission. The NTSB is one of our Government's most important agencies. Its mission is to determine the probable cause of transportation accidents and to promote transportation safety. The NTSB is world renown for its timely and expert determinations of accident causation and for issuing realistic and feasible safety recommendations. The FTC is charged with the dual mission of consumer protection and antitrust enforcement. Both agencies are critically important to the safety and well being of American consumers. Both will continue their important work thanks to Chairman PRESSLER's efforts.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to make brief mention of two other bills. Chairman PRESSLER has worked over the last 2 years to achieve a consensus on a National Space Policy Act and authorization legislation for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, both of which were also introduced by Senator PRESSLER. The Space Policy Act embodies authorizations for NASA programs such as Mission to Planet Earth and the space station and enjoys broad bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress. The NOAA authorization legislation is another bill vital to the public safety. Among other things, NOAA is charged with forecasting and warning against impending destructive natural events such as hurricanes, thunderstorms, and tornados.

Mr. President, I commend Commerce Committee chairman, Senator LARRY PRESSLER. He is a shining example of how to get things done in the Senate. Just look at the record. Chairman PRESSLER has left his distinguished mark on some of the most important pieces of legislation this Congress produced.

I conclude by also congratulating the members, members on both sides of the aisle, of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation for an exceptional legislative record in this Congress. Without a doubt this was one of the most active and productive of all Senate committees.

TIRBUTE TO SENATOR MARK O. HATFIELD

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, when the full Appropriations Committee marked up H.R. 3755, the fiscal year 1997 Labor/HHS appropriations bill, I was pleased that the committee accepted an amendment to name the new NIH clinical research center, the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center. This center will be of major importance to our Nation's health and will be named for a man who has dedicated his entire public life to enhancing the quality of all human life. There is no greater tribute to his innumerable contributions in this area than to designate, in his name, a living legacy within whose walls will be state-of-the-art facilities for a combined effort of basic and clinical research—laboratories and clinics side-by-side—to discover interventions and deliver the most effective health care our Nation or any nation has ever known.

In his 30 years of Senate service, Senator HATFIELD brought to this institution, his great intellect, a quiet decency, and a tenacious advocacy for those who have little voice. He is a true and eloquent spokesman for the protection of our people from the forces of ignorance and illiteracy, social injustice, weapons of mass destruction, and diseases that ravage the mind and body. Throughout his career, he consistently fought to direct our Nation's precious fiscal resources to programs that held promise in eradicating society's ills and improving the human condition. At times, he was a lone voice facing a hostile reception by administrations with different priorities but his dedication did not waiver.

Our chairman adheres to no political or ideological boundary but the voice of his own conscience, often placing himself in direct opposition the prevailing winds of the day. Whether fighting major rescissions in social discretionary programs in the early 1980's or in protecting biomedical research funding as recently as in last year's budget resolution, he never lost sight of the importance of maintaining strong national programs for both basic and clinical health research as well as the training of tomorrow's scientists.

Our colleague always believed that we would be acting irresponsibly by shortchanging these and other life sustaining efforts, therefore, any immediate savings achieved would be offset by a weakened human condition for decades to come. ''If we fail to provide adequately for the training of future generations of research scientists'', I have often heard him say, ''then we are effectively eating our seed corn.'' In failing to provide necessary annual increases in funds for research grants, he insists, we will ''lose the momentum'' in our capacity to eradicate human suffering at home and world-wide.

WHen it is completed, the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center will be a magnificent structure and a world model. With this amendment, we honor a man who, in his retirement from the Senate, should leave secure in the knowledge that his life's work has made a difference. By creating the opportunity for new discoveries in disease prevention and treatment a more healthy future has been insured for all Americans today and for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR COHEN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the contributions of retiring Senator WILLIAM COHEN of Maine, as he prepares to take leave of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, the Christian Science Monitor once referred to Senator COHEN as a ''true Renaissance man.'' That is an apt compliment, because it describes a person of broad interests who applies his intellect and energy with distinction in many theaters of human activity.

Senator COHEN certainly embodies that description.

In my 3 years here, I have come to appreciate Senator COHEN's intelligence, independence of thought and action, his integrity, his capacity for hard work and his respect for the Senate and for the process of making public policy.

He has also found time to write a pretty good book or two.

Senator COHEN and I have both served on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and there I have been able to watch, first-hand, his skill and dedication in dealing with issues of particular importance to senior citizens and of relevance to us all. He has, in particular, been a leader in the battle against waste, fraud and abuse in our Medicaid system.

He has also, upon assuming the chair, continued the tradition of bipartisan cooperation on that committee.

I have also appreciated Senator COHEN's insistence on the highest ethical standards for lawmakers. He wrote the law that renewed the Office of Government Ethics and, in fact, made it stronger. He has been a reliable ally in the fight for congressional reform. He played an important role in lobbying reform and was an important supporter of the efforts to restrict gift giving.

Mr. President, several months ago, Senator COHEN delivered a moving tribute to another Maine lawmaker, Senator Edmund Muskie, after Senator Muskie's passing.

Senator COHEN quoted John Kennedy on how to take the measure of people: ''First, were we truly people of courage? Second, were we truly people of judgment? Third, were we truly people of integrity? Fourth, were we truly people of dedication?''

Senator COHEN said at the time that the answer to each of those questions in Ed Muskie's case was ''yes.'' The same can be said for Senator COHEN.

Mr. President, the residents of Maine know, I am sure, they have been well-served by Senator COHEN. Let me say, for the record, so have the American people.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM LEGISLATION IN THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as the 104th Congress winds to a close, I wanted take this opportunity to comment on the demise of the Food and Drug Administration Reform legislation.

It has been extremely disappointing to me that efforts to prod the FDA into meaningful reform have not been fruitful. It is doubly disappointing because,

our colleague, Senator KASSEBAUM, and her staff have spent countless hours crafting a solid reform bill, a bill that won overwhelming, bipartisan support from the Labor and Human Resources Committee.

In remarks before this body earlier this year, I outlined my views on the need for FDA reform and the principles which should be embodied in any reform legislation. I continue to believe that reform of this tiny, but important, agency is sorely needed, reform that will both streamline its operations and preserve its commitment to ensuring the public health.

I know that many who have worked on the FDA issues are discouraged, but we can be proud of three significant reforms to food and drug law this year: The first being the drug and device export amendments I authored with Representative FRED UPTON; the Delaney clause reform embodied in the pesticide legislation the President recently signed; and the animal drug amendments so long championed by Senator KASSEBAUM. It seems, therefore, that the revolutionary course we charted for FDA reform at the beginning of the 104th Congress, evolved into a path evoluntary in nature, but still productive nonetheless.

Much more remains to be done, and I will continue to work with my colleagues next year to advance the work we started this year. There are many priorities for further action, among them—speeding up generic drug approvals, clarifying how tissue should be regulated, expediting medical device approvals, deficiencies in the foreign inspection program, and rigorous oversight of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act's implementation.

Another issue that I would like to see addressed next year is one that has been periodically on the FDA radar screen: The issue of national uniformity in regulation of products that fall within the FDA's purview.

In 1987, FDA Commissioner Frank Young, in response to California's proposition 65, was on the verge of issuing an FDA regulation that would have acted to preempt certain warning statements required by the State of California. In fact, in August of that year, Commissioner Young wrote the Governor of California to underscore his concerns about the potential negative effect of proposition 65 on ''the interstate marketing of foods, drugs, cosmetics and other products regulated by the FDA.''

Further, Commissioner Young pointed out that ''the Agency has adequate procedures for determining their safety and taking necessary action if problems arise.''

Although ultimately this regulation was not issued, the 1991 Advisory Committee on the Food and Drug Administration, chaired by former FDA Commissioner and Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Charles Edward, examined this issue. The panel recommended that Congress enact legislation, ''that preempts additional and conflicting state requirements for all products subject to FDA regulation.''

The issue of Federal preemption is extremely important for several industries, especially over-the-counter drugs, cosmetics, and foods. I was heartened when the Labor and Human Resources Committee approved Senator Gregg's amendment on national uniformity for over-the-counter drugs during consideration of the FDA reform legislation, S. 1477, but was disappointed that Senator GREGG did not extend the concept further in his amendment.

Let us take the cosmetics industry as a case in point.

In the United States, the cosmetics sector of the economy represents an estimated $21 billion in annual sales, a significant amount by almost any measure. It consists of over 10 billion individual packages that move through the stream of interstate commerce annually. These include soap, shampoo, mouthwash, and other products that Americans use daily. These hundreds and hundreds of product lines, and thousands and thousands of products are each subject to differing regulation in the various State—even though all must meet the rigorous safety, purity, and labeling requirements of Federal law.

Given this volume of economic activity, it is imperative that manufacturers be able to react quickly to trends in the marketplace; they must have the ability to move in to new product lines and move into and out of new geographic areas with a minimum—but adequate—level of regulation to ensure the products are not adulterated and are made according to good manufacturing practices.

Today, cosmetics manufacturers are competing more and more in a global economy, and are making products consistent with the international harmonization of standards in such large marketing areas as the European Union. A single nationwide system for regulating the safety and labeling of cosmetic products would take a great step toward helping that industry move toward the international trends in marketing. At the same time, it would be a more efficient system, since allowing individual States to impose varying labeling requirements inevitably leads to higher prices.

In other words, the time has more than come for enactment of a national uniformity law for cosmetic regulation. It is my hope that this issue will be high on our congressional agenda next year.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to offer my great respects to Chairman KASSEBAUM for the hours, weeks, and months of time she has devoted to the FDA reform issue. Although I have paid tribute to Senator KASSEBAUM in separate remarks here today, I must reiterate again how much her reputation for equilibrium and fairness have lent to development of an FDA reform proposal which cleared the committee in such a bipartisan fashion.

Finally, I must also pay tribute to the lead staffer on FDA issues, Jane Williams, who has worked virtually round-the-clock to try to fashion a good, fair, bipartisan reform bill. Jane more than exceeded that goal, and I think this body should give her some much-deserved recognition.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO BENNETT JOHNSTON—LOUISIANA'S SENIOR SENATOR

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to bid fond farewell and Godspeed to one of my good friends and colleagues, BENNETT JOHNSTON, the senior senator from Louisiana. Senator JOHNSTON soon will retire from the Senate, leaving behind a record of major legislative achievements. His dedication and perseverance will be missed by all of us who remain, as well as his constituents in Louisiana. BENNETT JOHNSTON's career of public service began with his enlistment in the Army in 1956. He served in the Louisiana State Legislature—4 years each in the House and Senate—before he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972.

Mr. President, during his four terms in the Senate, BENNETT JOHNSTON always championed his state's interests. He fought diligently for Federal funding that transformed a pothole-filled road through Louisiana into frequently traveled Interstate 49. This vital transportation artery will be a fitting reminder to all Louisianians of BENNETT JOHNSTON's commitment to them. He also led the way for a new Red River navigation system, ports and levees, research facilities, wildlife refuges and parks.

His roles as chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources made Senator JOHNSTON a national figure. Perhaps his most significant legislative achievement was the National Energy Security Act—a comprehensive bill that established him as a master of energy policy. This bill was passed in the wake of the Persian Gulf War, and it has reduced our country's dependence on foreign oil. According to Marribell S. Ayres, executive director of the National Independent Energy Producers, the way BENNETT JOHNSTON handled the bill reminded her of the old saying, ''talent is when opportunity meets preparation.'' The bill was a masterful achievement in legislating and he always will be remembered for that accomplishment.

I will miss BENNETT JOHNSTON's thoughtfulness and fairness on issues relating to our national resources, such as mining and timber issues. He has been a fair advocate for the concept of multiple use of Federal lands. He knows that multiple use is responsible use.