

just heard about which my Representative and her Republican colleagues support. A 15% tax cut at my income level would be peanuts compared to my possible medical bills.

At my age I do not worry about dying, but without Medicare I would worry about surviving. Many of my friends are in the same position.

We need Medicare for ourselves and our children.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SAID FREIHA

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the life of Mr. Said Freiha, a past chairman of the influential Arab publishing house, Dar Assayad, and the founder of Assayad, a weekly newsmagazine.

Born in Lebanon in 1912, Mr. Said Freiha rose from humble beginnings committed to the belief that a strong society full of freedom, pride and dignity could only be achieved through free enterprise and democracy. In 1970, Mr. Freiha established the Said Freiha Foundation for Welfare and Scientific Services. The foundation has been instrumental in providing financial, medical and professional aid to members of the Arab media and their families.

Under this leadership, Dar Assayad became one of the top three printing and publishing houses in the Arab world. When Mr. Freiha died in March 1978, he left behind a press empire now producing 12 publications.

Said Freiha's memory will remain as a beacon in the Arab world. Readers from across the Arab world will continue to benefit from the literary treasures he left behind.●

#### TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for working together to report this bill. I will certainly support final passage.

One of the most important budget items in this bill to me and my Seattle area constituents is funding for the new Federal courthouse. This courthouse has been needed, and in the works, for almost a decade. As Congress has expanded the role of Federal courts in crime fighting and other areas, our judges have gotten more and more squeezed. There is no doubt a new courthouse is needed.

At this time, the General Services Administration, working with the city of Seattle, has tentatively selected the main library for the city as the site for the new courthouse. The library is in sore need of replacement or major restoration. The library is a cherished public asset. The people in and near Seattle check out books at a rate of 1 million per year. They bring their children to story hour, attend the diverse programs, and conduct tremendous amounts of personal and professional research.

The city of Seattle recognizes the need for expansion of the Federal

courthouse and is committed to working energetically in partnership with the GSA to make this a reality. Seattle has offered to relocate its library to expedite expansion of the courthouse. I am pleased the city and GSA intend to work together, as quickly as possible, to find a mutually agreeable resolution of the cost and timing questions.

Mr. President, I again thank the chairman and ranking member for doing their part to move this courthouse toward completion. The need for the courthouse and a smooth, cost-efficient transition to a new library cannot be overstated. I look forward to working with you further in the coming years of this project to ensure the Federal justice system is poised to meet the growing needs of the region, and that Seattle's central library is kept whole in the process.●

#### FOREIGN DIFFERENTIAL EXPORT TAX SCHEMES

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last month when we were considering legislation to extend the Generalized System of Preferences [GSP], I raised an issue involving an unfair trade practice that has been of great concern to U.S. growers and processors of soybeans. I described a tax policy employed by certain countries, including some who are major beneficiaries of the GSP program, to give their processors and exporters of agricultural products an unfair competitive advantage in world markets. This policy is used particularly to benefit foreign soybean meal and oil processors and exporters.

This tax policy, known as a differential export tax scheme [DET], in effect operates as an indirect subsidy for exports of soybean meal and oil, permitting oilseed processors in those countries to underprice their competitors and obtain greater market shares for these products. As a consequence, the United States share of the world export market for soybean products has declined significantly, while the countries that engage in these trade-distorting practices, such as Brazil and Argentina, continue to experience tremendous export growth in these same products. Moreover, these tax schemes have had the effect of creating artificial downward pressure on world price levels for these products, which has severely reduced U.S. soybean industry revenues.

In my statement last month, I cited the tax structure utilized by the State of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil as a particularly egregious case in point. At that time, I noted the commitment of the Brazilian Federal Government to reforming that system. I am pleased to report that earlier this month, the Government of Brazil enacted reform legislation that eliminates these taxes on exports of raw materials and semi-manufactured goods. I want to publicly congratulate the Government of Brazil for this major accomplishment. I hope the example of leadership that Brazil

has set in taking this important step will encourage other countries that continue to utilize these tax schemes to take similar steps toward free and fair trade. I will continue to carefully monitor these developments and, as I noted in my previous statement, I am prepared to consider appropriate measures to encourage further progress in this regard.●

#### UNITED STATES-JAPAN INSURANCE AGREEMENT

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I would like to call to this Chamber's attention the continuing failure of the Government of Japan to honor the United States-Japan Insurance Agreement. My colleagues will recall that I offered a resolution on this issue on July 25 during our consideration of the foreign operations appropriations bill. That resolution was adopted unanimously by the Senate.

It was my hope at the time that the Government of Japan would soon begin to implement the obligations it undertook in the insurance agreement signed in 1994. Regrettably, not only has Japan not fulfilled its obligation to open its insurance market, as called for under the agreement, it is now poised to commit a grave violation of it. Such a violation would undermine Japanese credibility and could cost American companies millions of dollars of hard earned business. Rather than leading to a more open market, this agreement and Japan's new insurance business law, are being implemented by the Ministry of Finance in ways that could lead to substantially reduced American market share.

Our well-respected Ambassador to Japan, Walter Mondale, told the National Press Club earlier this month that it appears possible that the Ministry of Finance [MOF] "is going to permit these huge insurance companies to develop subsidiaries to go into the third sector and swamp the third sector with the army of insurance agents they have, without opening the primary sector. . . . And I think many of [the foreign insurance companies] would be driven out." For the benefit of those Members unfamiliar with the insurance market, the so-called "third sector" includes such niche products as personal accident and long-term disability insurance, and it is the only sector where foreign firms currently can compete.

Since Ambassador Mondale made that statement, the possibility of a violation has grown. Just last week USTR met again with the MOF to take stock of our respective positions. What this meant in fact was the Japanese Government withdrew—in response to domestic industry pressure—all the concessions offered at earlier negotiations in Vancouver.

Rather than making progress, the negotiations are back to where they had been in March and April. And I believe we are now at a brink. Ambassador

Barshesfsky has said publicly that if the MOF allows entry into the so-called "third sector," or in any other way prejudices the U.S. position, we will take appropriate actions.

Mr. President, I call on my colleagues today to support Ambassador Barshesfsky in her negotiations. We should do so unanimously. Japan must understand that the Congress' seriousness of resolve on this matter is no less than that of USTR.

Japan must honor its agreements. This may be a complicated issue, but it comes down to a simple matter—will Japan live up to its word. As Ambassador Mondale has said, "We have an agreement and that must mean something."

Mr. President, we have reached a day of reckoning. The Ministry of Finance must decide if it will permit violations of the agreement. If, on the other hand, the MOF does not permit violations, cooler heads may yet prevail.

Last week, a U.S. official said, "In its action on October 1, the Japanese government should not take action which prejudices the negotiations, which invalidates the U.S. position or unilaterally adopts the Japanese position." I agree. The proper and appropriate action by the MOF at this time would be a continuation of the freeze which has prevailed for a number of months. That is what we expect from the MOF, and nothing less. I hope our friends in Japan do not miscalculate, but if they do, we must leave no doubt that they have made a mistake.●

#### REAUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Senator STEVENS and Senator KERRY for their work in bringing this bill to passage. By reauthorizing the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, we reaffirm our commitment to the preservation and protection of marine resources and areas of great biological significance in the marine and coastal ecosystem.

This bill also amends the Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary Act to reflect some of the concerns raised during the sanctuary review process. Most importantly, the Hawaii provisions of the bill prohibit the imposition of user fees in the sanctuary. The measure also incorporates amendments requested by the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) regarding any future efforts to include the island of Kahoolawe in the sanctuary. The bill provides the KIRC with the authority to request that Kahoolawe be included in the sanctuary. If the KIRC does not make this request, Kahoolawe will not be included.

This bill represents bipartisan cooperation on an issue of great importance; the protection of the marine environment. I would like to thank the staff of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, especially Lila Helms, for their role in making this reauthorization a reality.●

#### 200TH BIRTHDAY OF LIBERTY HALL

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in paying tribute to Liberty Hall in Frankfort, KY. This historic home will celebrate its 200th birthday on October 2, 1996.

Liberty Hall is one of Kentucky's finest 18th-century homes. It served as the residence of Kentucky's first U.S. Senator, John Brown, and four generations of his family. Senator Brown held office from 1792 to 1805. Brown married Margaretta Mason on February 21, 1799; after their wedding they returned to Frankfort and his home, Liberty Hall, which he began building in 1796.

Senator Brown was known as a strong advocate and voice for the developing lands west of the Allegheny Mountains. Brown was one of the first trustees of Harrodsburg. He also was a founding member of the Danville Political Club and a member of the Kentucky Manufacturing Society. At the time of his death he had the distinction of being the last living member of the Continental Congress.

Since 1937, Liberty Hall has served as a house museum. The historic home is a sterling example of the preservation movement in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Mr. President, I ask you to join me in celebrating Liberty Hall's 200th birthday. This historic site is a Kentucky landmark, and I hope all that travel to Kentucky's capital will take time to stop by and see why we Kentuckians are so proud of this historic mansion.●

#### COMMEMORATING SAM VOLPENTEST'S 92D BIRTHDAY

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to issue a birthday wish to one of the most remarkable people I have had the pleasure to work with in these first 4 years of my term: my almost-92-year-old friend and mentor, Sam Volpentest.

For more than three decades, Sam has been working to ensure the economic stability of the communities surrounding the Department of Energy's Hanford Site in southeast Washington. As a representative of the Tri-City Industrial Development Council, he worked closely with Senators Magnuson and Jackson to secure funding and projects for Hanford as the site has transitioned through various incarnations, from helping to win the cold war to cleaning up a nuclear mess to moving onto a healthy, stable future. And although these two illustrious leaders have passed on, Sam has not let up. He has advised and educated a whole new generation of elected leaders about priorities and the importance of the Tri-Cities.

Sam is tireless. He has more energy and enthusiasm than almost anybody. People who are half his age would be happy with his energy level—I know I would. He puts that energy to good work for Hanford and for the numerous charities and organizations he supports. I can think of no person who has contributed more time or energy to Hanford's workers and communities than Sam Volpentest.

Mr. President, I want to tell one story to illustrate Sam's dogged determination to do the right thing. Early in my Senate tenure, Sam shared with me an exciting new venture for Han-

ford, dubbed HAMMER—the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response facility. HAMMER was an excellent idea, but a costly one—especially in this budget-cutting climate. However, with Sam at the helm of the project, this important inter-agency, cooperative emergency response program had a chance to make the transition from dream to reality.

In 1994, Sam got word that HAMMER funding was threatened. He called my office late one evening and explained how important it was to contact Senator EXON, who would be instrumental in saving HAMMER. Sam arrived at 7 a.m. and camped on my doorstep, and believe me, anyone who has had Sam camp out on their doorstep knows this man can camp. He helped me develop a strategy for winning and we worked every hour of the day to implement that strategy. In the end, we saved HAMMER.

Just last year, we broke ground for the extensive HAMMER training course. Today, HAMMER—Sam's mission and one of his many dreams—is almost constructed. The people not only in his community but across the Nation will benefit for years to come for Sam's tenacity and devotion to "camping" on doorsteps.

Today, on September 30, Sam Volpentest celebrates his 92d birthday. On that day, The Tri-City Herald will publish a list of contributors who have given to "Sam's 92d Birthday Celebration for Charity." Contributors can give \$9.20, \$92, \$920 or more to the organizing committee who will then pass the money on to the Blue Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Tri-Cities Cancer Center, and Washington State University Tri-Cities. This is an excellent way to celebrate Sam's continuing charity to his friends and community, and will certainly demonstrate the love and affection so many people have for this remarkable man.

Mr. President, I hope all of my colleagues are blessed with people so tirelessly devoted to their communities as the people of the Tri-Cities and I have in Sam Volpentest. I hope those of you who have the privilege of knowing Sam will join me in wishing him a very happy 92d birthday, with many more to follow.●

#### REPORT ON TRIP TO INDONESIA, VIETNAM, AND HONG KONG

● Mr. COCHARN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to submit for printing in the RECORD a copy of a letter I am sending today to our distinguished majority leader which encloses a copy of a report of a trip I took with his authorization to Indonesia, Vietnam, and Hong Kong earlier this year.

I hope Senators and staff will be able to consider my suggestions for policies that enhance our economic and security interests in this very important part of the world.

I ask that my letter and report be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, September 30, 1996.

Hon. TRENT LOTT,  
The Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR TRENT: I am pleased to submit this report on my trip to Indonesia, Vietnam and