

Others are concerned that the CWC will not cover the most critical cases, i.e., those in which national governments are determined to develop chemical weapons and seek to evade controls. This may be true, but dealing with these cases will require the effort of international coalitions, and the cooperative process of enacting the CWC will facilitate the establishment of such coalitions. The treaty would also establish international norms for compliance and monitoring, providing objective goals for these coalitions. In light of these benefits, the ASG urges the Congress expeditiously to ratify the CWC.

(3) Improve federal, state and local capabilities to respond to CW and BW attacks. If a foreign state or terrorist group utilized CW or BW attacks against our people, the first authorities on the scene will be state and local authorities. Thus, cooperation between federal and local authorities is more important than ever, as is cooperation between domestic law enforcement agencies and national intelligence organizations.

The ASG believes the United States, building on the base established by the Nunn-Lugar legislation and subsequent Nunn-Lugar-Domenici amendments, should undertake a more comprehensive effort to develop and coordinate policies for dealing with BW and CW threats. The initial agenda for such a program should include:

The development of coordinated inter-agency and federal/state/local government plans for responding to a CW and/or BW attack, including the sharing of information, personnel and equipment;

The review of statutes and other legal institutions necessary for effective cooperation between different levels of government on this issue;

The promotion of cooperation between government authorities in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries to develop measures to monitor materials that could be used to create chemical and biological agents.

(4) Review U.S. policy of "no first use." With the end of the Cold War and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact, one pillar underlying our reluctance to commit to "no first use" of nuclear weapons has disappeared. During the Gulf War the Bush Administration warned Saddam Hussein that any use of chemical or biological weapons would provoke a massive U.S. response—allowing the inference that nuclear weapons might be used. While ASG members held different views about the desirability of translating the Gulf War declaratory policy into a general principle of U.S. policy, they agreed on the importance and timeliness of an official review of this issue.

(5) Preserve a full-court defense against Iraqi efforts to acquire WMD. Iraq continues to develop weapons of mass destruction in defiance of the international community. Diplomatically, it seeks to initiate United Nations monitoring and remove sanctions. The ASG believes that we must not compromise on the UN enforcement of sanctions on Iraq or its efforts to monitor Iraqi WMD activities. The maintenance of adequate U.S. forces to ensure Iraq's compliance remains essential.

(6) The role of the media. The ASG urges that the media consider its own role in dealing with issues related to weapons of mass destruction. The widespread availability of sensitive information is a significant factor in the ability of nations and subnational groups to develop WMD. The effectiveness of terrorist groups to employ such weapons for coercion may depend on media reactions. And, if a real or suspected CW or BW attack should occur, the media response (if it stimulated public panic) could greatly complicate the efficacy of official actions.

These are delicate issues, for they raise questions about civil liberties and freedom of the press. Government officials must be particularly sensitive to these matters in their efforts to address the problem. Yet the media must begin to develop standards for responding to reports of terrorist WMD threats or attacks. Some discussion between representatives of the media and government officials about how the government and the press deal with each other in a crisis and how press freedoms can be reconciled with a need for public order and security would be timely and relevant.

TRIBUTE TO MARV TEIXEIRA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of Nevada's leaders, Mayor Marv Teixeira. For the citizens of Carson City, he has been a determined and tireless fighter whose efforts and achievements will be appreciated for generations to come.

For 7 years, Marv has served as the mayor of Nevada's capital city. With characteristic good humor and affability, Mayor Teixeira has fought hard on behalf of the city and State he loves. His devoted leadership has made the town he calls "Nevada's best kept secret" an even better place.

Mayor Teixeira has been instrumental in bringing new companies and new jobs to Carson City. These efforts have helped change the face of Carson City to a thriving manufacturing town with old west charm. Mayor Teixeira has gracefully overseen a city with a growing population and has devoted himself to easing Carson's downtown traffic through securing funding for the Carson City bypass. His accomplishments as mayor can be seen all over the city, from building the centralized city hall complex, the senior citizen's center, and the Pony Express Pavilion to instituting a million dollar downtown beautification project. He activated public access television in Carson City and found funding for a \$19 million public safety complex.

It is my pleasure to speak today in tribute to Marv Teixeira and congratulate him on his many years of outstanding public service. For the excellence with which he performed his job, Nevada owes Marv Teixeira a debt of gratitude.

COMMENDING GAO COMPTROLLER GENERAL CHARLES A. BOWSHER

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of our Nation's most dedicated and loyal public servants, Comptroller General of the United States Charles A. Bowsher.

On September 30 of this year, Charles Bowsher will complete his term of office as Comptroller General of the United States and head of the General Accounting Office.

In 1981, President Reagan appointed Mr. Bowsher to a 15-year term as Comptroller General of the United States. This appointment capped a long and distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. Prior to his

appointment, Mr. Bowsher was associated with Arthur Andersen & Co. Between 1967 and 1971, he interrupted his 25-year career at Arthur Andersen to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management.

During those years, Mr. President, I had the privilege of working with Chuck Bowsher in my capacity as Under Secretary—and later Secretary—of the Navy. His critical work as Assistant Secretary earned him the Distinguished Public Service Awards from both the Navy and the Department of Defense.

Mr. President, the General Accounting Office, or GAO as we call it, is one of the least heralded agencies of the Federal Government. Congress created the GAO in 1921 with the mandate to audit, evaluate, or investigate virtually all Federal Government operations—wherever they might take place. In other words, the GAO serves as a watchdog over the taxpayers' money—guarding against fraud, abuse, and inefficient allocation of public funds.

In its oversight capacity, the GAO produces in-depth reports at the specific request of congressional committees, or on its own initiative. Recently, GAO reports have served as a non-partisan factual basis for congressional debate on issues ranging from health care reform and the savings and loan crisis to the Federal budget deficit and efforts to reinvent government. Meanwhile, the agency continues to monitor high-risk government activities that could lead to major losses from waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

Under Chuck Bowsher's leadership, the GAO has saved taxpayers billions and billions of dollars. GAO recommendations assist Members of Congress and the executive branch in making difficult decisions on the effective use of scarce Federal funds. Over the past decade, Congress has implemented numerous GAO recommendations—including budget reductions, cost avoidances, appropriations deferrals, and revenue enhancements—totaling more than \$100 billion. Each year, the agency issues more than 1,000 written reports, and its officials testify as many as 300 times before congressional committees.

In short, Mr. President, under Chuck Bowsher's leadership the GAO has done an outstanding job of protecting the taxpayers' interests while promoting sound fiscal management practices throughout the Federal Government. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring a truly exceptional public servant who has served this Nation with integrity, dedication, honor, and diligence—the Honorable Charles A. Bowsher.

ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY IN THE PIPELINE BILL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, last Thursday, the Senate passed by unanimous consent S. 1505, the Accountable Pipeline Safety and Partnership Act. I'm

pleased that the following day, the House of Representatives also adopted the bill by a significant margin. The bill has now been sent to the President for his signature.

Mr. President, in the hours leading up to House consideration of the bill, a concern was raised that a provision in the bill might impact wetlands protection.

By way of background, let me say that under current law, the Department of Transportation [DOT] is required to identify unusually sensitive environmental areas. Once these areas have been identified, DOT is to promulgate special rules to minimize the chances of a liquid pipeline accident in these areas. DOT is currently in the process of implementing this provision of the law.

In fact, current law does not identify wetlands as one of the areas DOT should look at when making its identification of these unusually sensitive environmental areas. That is why I and my fellow cosponsors attempted to remedy this situation through language in S. 1505. The bill directs DOT to include "critical wetlands" in its consideration.

Apparently, the use of the term "critical" has raised a question in some parts of the environmental community as to whether we are attempting to create a new category of wetlands that might undermine other wetlands protection programs carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Corps of Engineers. This is just not true.

I want to assure first, the American people and second, the environmental community, that the language of S. 1505 is simply intended to give direction to the Department of Transportation, and its Office of Pipeline Safety.

In no way are the words intended to have any precedent-setting effect on any other law or agency. In no way are the words designed to diminish the role of DOT to protect the environment and the public's safety in and around pipelines.

Mr. President, I have recently spoken to all of my cosponsors of S. 1505, and they too agree with what I have just said. They too share the same interpretation of the words and the intention of the legislation.

This language will strengthen the pipeline safety program's protection of both the environment, and the public's safety.

Mr. President, again I want to reiterate this language is not intended to have any impact outside the pipeline safety program. I believe the criticisms aimed at the use of the term "critical wetlands" are unjustified. I believe it is a false canard.

Mr. President, I hope this statement clears up any administration misconception that may exist on this matter. And, I hope the President promptly signs this legislation.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, October 2, the Federal debt stood at \$5,235,509,457,452.56.

One year ago, October 2, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,987,587,000,000.

Five years ago, October 2, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,675,035,000,000.

Ten years ago, October 2, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,125,302,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, October 2, 1981, the Federal debt stood at \$994,220,000,000 which reflects an increase of more than \$4 trillion, \$4,241,289,457,452.56, during the past 15 years.

HERE'S WEEKLY BOX SCORE ON U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending September 27, the United States imported 6,536,000 barrels of oil each day, 1,258,000 less than the 7,794,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

Nevertheless, Americans relied on foreign oil for 50 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers? Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 6,536,000 barrels a day.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NICHOLAS G. BERAM VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on November 16, 1996, the Nicholas G. Beram Veteran's Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a dinner event in Randolph, MA. I regret very much that I will not be able to join the members of this fine organization on their special occasion. However, I would like to take a few moments to share with the members of this body the association's half-century of history.

The Nicholas G. Beram Veteran's Association was founded in 1946 by a small group of Syrian-Lebanese veterans from the Boston area. From 25 charter members this group has grown to over 250 veterans; its ranks comprised of individuals who have served their country with distinction in every military conflict since World War II.

The Nicholas G. Beram Veteran's Association has made commendable efforts in honoring the service, not only of its own members, but of all Arab-

American veterans. The deceased receive a special service at the wake, and their families are presented with an American flag. This year more than 450 graves of Arab-American veterans in 15 cemeteries in the Boston area were decorated. Additionally, the association maintains a long-established scholarship fund that provides annual \$1,000 grants to up to nine students.

As the grandson of Lebanese immigrants, I take special pride in the activities of the Nicholas G. Beram Veteran's Association. I salute its members for their five decades of commitment to their heritage and service in our Nation's Armed Forces. On behalf of all my Senate colleagues, I congratulate the Nicholas G. Beram Veteran's Association on what I am certain will be a successful anniversary celebration, and extend my best wishes for future years of continued prosperity.

LOW INCOME HOUSING CREDIT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, Senators MOSELEY-BRAUN and BAUCUS and I want to call attention to a matter that is very important to the small group affected. At the end of my remarks I will ask that a letter to HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, signed by myself and Senators BAUCUS and MOSELEY-BRAUN, be included in the RECORD. We are asking the Secretary to review the criteria for income determination for the low-income housing tax credit and consider using the criteria and standards already in effect under the low-income guidelines for section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act as income guidelines for the low-income housing tax credit.

Senators BAUCUS and MOSELEY-BRAUN have seen situations in Montana and Illinois similar to one facing the community of Hibbing, MN. Several years ago, the city of Hibbing organized a development program to purchase and restore the historic Androy Hotel in downtown Hibbing. The hotel was run down and had been abandoned. The rehabilitation was important to the city of Hibbing not only because of the history of the Androy Hotel, but because it symbolically dominates the downtown area.

The rehabilitated hotel has been constructed for much needed senior citizen housing and there has been historic restoration of the hotel ballroom and lobby on the first floor. The low-income housing tax credit program made some of the funding provided by the city of Hibbing and a local bank possible.

The low-income housing tax credit restricts the use of housing units to seniors of a certain income level. Unfortunately, because of a unique situation, many Hibbing seniors are just above the prescribed income level. This is because in Hibbing there is a long history of saving for retirement due to the commitment by the iron mining industry to solid pension programs and Social Security income for both