

The Board reiterates that any proposed exclusion should be supported with detailed and precise information and rationale sufficient to establish that exclusion is warranted under section 220(e)(1)(B) of the Act. For example, commentators should provide comprehensive and specific descriptions of job functions and responsibilities that they believe require exclusion of covered employees from coverage and explain precisely why the participation in an employee organization of an individual who had such tasks and responsibilities would interfere with Congress' constitutional responsibilities or present a conflict of interest. In the absence of such information and rationale, it will be difficult for the Board to determine whether covered employees in the specified offices should be excluded from enjoying the rights and protections of section 220, except as otherwise required by law or provided under any regulations issued pursuant to section 220(e)(1)(A).

The Board invites comment on the following specific questions:

1. What are the constitutional responsibilities of Congress that would require exclusion of employees from coverage under section 220 of the CAA? Similarly, what would constitute a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict that would require exclusion of employees from coverage under section 220 of the CAA?

2. Should determinations as to exclusion from coverage under section 220 be made on an office-wide basis or should they be based on performance of specified duties and functions in the referenced office?

3. In each individual office referenced in section 220(e)(2), what are the particular duties and functions of the specific positions that shall be excluded from coverage? What is the legal basis under the CAA for exclusion?

4. What exclusions, if any, are required under paragraph 220(e)(2)(H)? What are the "comparable functions" of any office so identified? What are the bases for exclusion of the specified office or of covered employees in the offices?

The Board reiterates that, in answering these questions, commentators should provide detailed legal and factual support for their proposals. Generalities and conclusory assertions will not suffice. Detailed information and authorities that address specific duties and functions of employees and offices, in rigorous and complete detail, are necessary to enable the Board to make appropriate determinations pursuant to the CAA's mandate.

GOODBYE TO THE HUNTSVILLE NEWS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Huntsville, AL's morning newspaper, the Huntsville News, will publish its last edition on Friday, March 15, 1996. The News was founded 32 years ago by local business people as a weekly, but became a daily paper within only a few months. In 1968, it was sold by the owners to Advance Publications, which also owns Huntsville's afternoon paper, the Huntsville Times.

The Huntsville News published its first edition on January 8, 1964. It introduced itself to its Rocket City readers with the headline: "New Communications Capsule Blasts Off." The original owners were James Cleary, a Huntsville attorney; John Higdon, the former manager of a local television

station; and Thomas A. Barr, an electrical engineer. The paper was printed on its own press, an offset press which was one of the most modern in the business. Less than 2 months after it began publishing, it went to a twice-weekly schedule, and in August 1964, it became a 6-day daily, publishing every day except Sunday.

Stoney Jackson was the first editor of the News. At one time, he was a contestant on "The \$64,000 Question" television quiz show, and became famous when he revealed cheating on the famous game show. Other editors were Sid Thomas, Hollice Smith, Dave Langford, Tom Lankford, and Lee Woodward, who has been editor since 1977. Ironically, Woodward, who first came to work for the paper in 1972, had already planned his retirement for this March before the announcement about the News.

Before he joined the News, Woodward, a native of Arab, AL, had worked for the Huntsville Times, the News Courier, Alabama Courier, and Lime-stone Democrat, all three newspapers published in Athens, where he grew up. He had also worked at the Gadsden Times. He is now serving as president of the Alabama Press Association and has been on the Alabama Newspaper Advertising Service Board of Directors. Altogether, he has enjoyed 42 years in the newspaper business.

I want to congratulate everyone who has been involved with the publication of the Huntsville News over the last 32 years, particularly the current editor, Lee Woodward, who has performed superbly in an exceedingly difficult position. The newspaper has been an authoritative source of information and insight into the issues and news of the day, and its loss is an extremely sad one for the Huntsville area. Its sharp writing, lucid clarity, and professional objectivity each morning will be sorely missed by its many readers. It has performed its mission well and leaves a tremendous journalistic legacy to the citizens of this vibrant area.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR RALPH SEARS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, long-time Montevallo, AL mayor Ralph Sears passed away on February 14, 1996 at the age of 73. A native of Nebraska, the young World War II veteran had come to Montevallo in 1948 to teach broadcasting courses at Alabama College, now the University of Montevallo. It was said that he had a golden voice, and he originally was lured to the south to teach a year or so and then move on. Thankfully for Montevallo, he never got around to moving on. Instead, he went on to serve for 16 years as a member of the city council and then for 24 years as mayor.

During his nearly half-century in his adopted city, Ralph Sears and his wife, Marcia, raised three children; opened radio station WBYE, located between Calera and Montevallo; and bought and

published two weekly newspapers, one of which was the Shelby County Reporter.

As mayor, he came to be seen as an uncommon friend to his constituents. He accomplished things which had a direct impact on their daily lives. He saw that tall horse-and-buggy curbs and crumbling sidewalks were replaced by lower curbs, handicap ramps, flowering trees in planters, and litter cans. He oversaw the building of a 40-acre park with ball fields, playgrounds, picnic tables, walking trail, gazebo, recreation building, and Scout hut. He worked with black citizens to devise a district voting system that assured their representation on the council years before a Federal court decision ordered municipal governments to take such action. Mayor Sears was also credited with constructing a sewage treatment plant and modern fire station.

He spent some fairly exciting times in the Pacific theatre during World War II. He served in Tokyo and in the Philippines with General Douglas MacArthur. He and Marcia would customarily travel around the world, to wherever news was breaking or about to break. They celebrated Alaska's statehood in Juneau; visited South Africa on the brink of revolution in 1986; and saw the other side of the Iron Curtain before glasnost turned it into rust.

Mayor Sears was active in the World Council of Mayors; past chairman of the Shelby County Mayors Association; and president of the Montevallo Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, and board of Shelby Youth Services.

Ralph Sears was truly an institution in Montevallo; he was involved in the city's educational, religious, news media, and, of course, its governing bodies. He was a gentleman's gentleman who believed deeply in the principles set forth in the U.S. Constitution. He was an honest, fair, and moral person—a progressive and a visionary who believed the American way was the right way.

At the time of his death, one of the projects he was working on was the establishment of a section of Montevallo as an Alabama Village. The State and the University of Montevallo are trying to create a community similar to Jamestown in Williamsburg, VA, and the city has committed funds to buy 115 acres for the project. Hopefully, this village will some day stand as a monument to his life and work.

I extend my sincerest condolences to the Sears family in the wake of its tremendous loss. His legacy is one that will last for many, many decades into the future.

TRIBUTE TO CIVIC LEADER HARRY MOORE RHETT, JR.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Harry Moore Rhett, Jr., a long-time community leader and member of one of Huntsville, Alabama's most prominent families, died on February 3, 1996 at his antebellum home in Huntsville.

During his long career, Rhett served as chairman of the city of Huntsville Gas Utility Board; chairman of the city of Huntsville Water Utility Board; chairman of the Huntsville Hospital Foundation; chairman of the Randolph School Board of Trustees; and chairman of the board of governors of the Heritage Club.

In addition, he had served as president of the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce; the Huntsville Rotary Club; the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee; and the Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association. He was chairman of the board of control of Huntsville Hospital; the Madison County Board of Registrars; and the Marshall Space Flight Center Community Advisory Committee.

It is difficult to imagine any citizen serving his community with more energy, pride, and dedication than did Harry Rhett, Jr. His devotion to his community was total and unwavering.

As an avid athlete, hunter, and sportsman, he was the founder and master of the Mooreland Hunt, a local fox-hunting group. He was a graduate of Culver Military Academy; Washington and Lee University; and Harvard University business school. He served as an army officer in Europe during World War II.

Harry Rhett, Jr. was one of those rare individuals who truly embodied the unique ideals upon which our country was founded. He achieved great financial and personal success, yet served with humility and a spirit of generosity. His efforts and work contributed significantly to the tremendous growth of the Huntsville area during his life-time.

I extend my sincerest condolences to the Rhett family in the wake of its tremendous loss. I hope they, like most citizens of this area, will find solace in continuing to enjoy the fruits of Harry's labor, which are all around them, for many, many years to come.

HONORING THE EATONS FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, these are trying times for the family in America. Unfortunately, too many broken homes have become part of our national culture. It is tragic that nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce. The effects of divorce on families and particularly the children of broken families are devastating. In such an era, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "til death us do part" seriously and have successfully demonstrated the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity, to build a strong family. These qualities make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor the Ernest and Margie Eaton of Clinton, MO, who on March 3

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Ernest and Margie's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this substantial marker on their journey together.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the Federal debt now exceeds \$5 trillion. Twenty years ago, in 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$629 billion, after 200 years of America's existence, including two world wars. After all of that, the total Federal debt, I repeat, was \$629 billion.

Then the big spenders really went to work and the interest on the debt really began to take off—and, presto, during the past 20 years the Federal debt has soared into the stratosphere, increasing by more than \$4 trillion in 2 decades—from 1976 to 1996.

So, Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, March 5, 1996, the Federal debt stood—down-to-the-penny—at \$5,016,462,295,493.85. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,040.91 as his or her share of that debt.

This enormous debt is a festering, escalating burden on all citizens and especially it is jeopardizing the liberty of our children and grandchildren. As Jefferson once warned, "to preserve [our] independence, we must not let our leaders load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude." Isn't it about time that Congress heeded the wise words of the author of the Declaration of Independence?

MS. BARBARA BALDWIN

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, last week Rhode Islanders learned some sad news. We learned that one of our community's leading and most respected activists is leaving our State for a new position in Tennessee. We will miss Barbara Baldwin, the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island for the last 9 years, when she leaves Rhode Island at the end of May.

It is often said that everyone in Rhode Island knows everyone else in Rhode Island. That's almost true—we are a small State and it is relatively easy to get to know people who become active in the State and in their communities. But Barbara made an immediate mark on Rhode Island when she arrived here in 1987. And since then she had led Planned Parenthood with dignity, serenity, courage, and energy. She is totally dedicated to ensuring quality health care to women, and is wholly committed to preserving reproductive rights.

Barbara has also been an important political adviser and friend to me over these last 9 years, and to many other

government officials and politicians. But mostly, she has been a leader for the women of Rhode Island, and has gained the respect of both those who share her views and those who don't.

Rhode Islanders will miss Barbara, and we wish her well in her move to Tennessee. But we want her to know that the door to our State will always be open to her, and we hope that some day she will return.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT SOARES UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, as President Soares, one of Portugal's greatest modern leaders, prepares to retire, I would like to offer my personal congratulations. President Soares is a good friend who has my admiration for all he has done to make Portugal a vibrant and democratic part of Europe. During the dark days of Portugal's authoritarian regime, President Soares demonstrated an enormous amount of courage. He was an active opponent of that rule—and for that he paid dearly. I particularly remember that when those dark days ended in 1974, President Soares returned to Portugal to help lead the new government. I followed his career closely in the ensuing years—when he served as foreign minister twice and prime minister three times before becoming President in 1986. I have deep regard for President Soares' leadership in the 1980's in preparing Portugal for entry into the European Community, and in more recent years, in ensuring that Portugal remains firmly planted in the European Union and NATO.

I have a huge respect for Portugal and her people, and have been fortunate to work with President Soares over the years. My State of Rhode Island has a large and vibrant Portuguese community.

Portugal is an important ally. Our two countries share a commitment to democracy, freedom, and peace—values which are important not only as we confront a changing Europe—but as we approach challenges in the Middle East and Africa. Portugal is a great friend of the United States, and it is in the spirit of this friendship that I pay tribute to President Soares, and wish him well in his retirement.

HOW MUCH FOREIGN OIL BEING CONSUMED BY UNITED STATES? HERE'S WEEKLY BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that, for the week ending March 1, the United States imported 6,329,000 barrels of oil each day, 3 percent more—169,000 barrels more—than the 6,160,000 barrels imported during the same period 1 year ago.

Americans now rely on foreign oil for more than 50 percent of their needs. There is no sign that this upward trend will abate.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S.