grounded off the southern Rhode Island coast in the early evening on Friday.

The grounding followed a fire that broke out Friday afternoon on the tug, later engulfed the vessel and required the subsequent last minute evacuation of the captain and crew by the U.S. Coast Guard.

That evacuation was successful because of the enormous courage and skill of the Coast Guard rescue team, who did not hesitate to put themselves at great personal risk to rescue the captain and crew.

Coast Guard Fireman Adam Cravey and Seaman Walt Trimble, who were the first to arrive at the scene aboard a 44-foot Coast Guard boat, found six men wearing survival suits huddled on the bow of the tug—which was engulfed by fire.

The six jumped into the water to swim to the Coast Guard boat and Fireman Cravey, who was in a wet suit and was tethered to the Coast Guard boat, jumped in to assist them. All were safely ashore about 2½ hours after the first emergency call.

Mr. President, I want to emphasize that this rescue was conducted under extremely difficult conditions, including high winds and rough seas, in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic.

I understand that the Coast Guard had warned mariners from Maine to New Jersey of a period of potentially dangerous winds from 40 to 50 knots, with higher gusts, and seas from 15 to 25 feet.

It was under extraordinarily difficult winter storm conditions that the Coast Guard effected the rescue and attempted, unsuccessfully, to prevent the barge and burning tug from running aground. The barge, dragging the burning tug, grounded in shallow water off Matunuck Point Beach, near Point Judith.

Pounded by strong winds and high seas, the 340-foot, single-hull barge began to spill oil early Saturday from holes in at least two places. Current estimates of the spill are in the range of 828,000 gallons.

Transporation Secretary Frederico Peña, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Kramek, and other Federal officials came to us in Rhode Island to evaluate the spill on Saturday, as efforts continued to contain the escaping oil and offload what oil remained aboard the barge.

Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Almond appealed for Federal help on Sunday, declaring a state of emergency and identifying the spill as ''the worst in Rhode Island's history and one of the worst ever off the coast of New England.''

The toll on marine life apparently has already been heavy. Thousands of oil-coated lobsters, dead and living, have washed up along several hundred yards of beach near the barge. Dozens of seabirds have died and scores more have been coated in oil.

The barge is close to Moonstone Beach, a breeding ground for the endangered piping plover and the Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge, an environmentally fragile habitat. An estimated 75,000 waterfowl live in the refuge area, including rare harlequin ducks.

Fishing also was banned in a 105 square-mile area, from Point Judith south to waters east of Block Island. A number of shellfishing areas also were closed.

The good news is that Rhode Islanders rose to the occasion. Hundreds of Rhode Islanders, their efforts coordinated by Save the Bay, volunteered to help the emergency response crews by cleaning everything from beaches to birds. The Coast Guard was magnificent in its response.

Additional good news came with a phone call from President Clinton to Governor Almond, assuring him that funds would be made available for the cleanup and fishing industries.

This tragedy has not yet played itself out, but we should ask some hard questions when we have all the facts.

Among the most obvious questions, that have crossed my mind: Why were the tug and barge underway in such treacherous and dangerous weather conditions? Should we have weather related restrictions on the transportation of toxic or hazardous materials in coastal waterways? Could this incident have been avoided by better firesafety procedures or by a more rapid response? Could it have been mitigated by more aggressive prevention and containment measures?

It is unfortunate, Mr. President, that this barge was not of the new double-hulled design—which I have long advocated. I understand that it leaked from 9 of its 14 containment holds. A double-hull might have made all the difference between an incident and a disaster.

Finally, I think that everyone would benefit from a thorough review of the coordination of our emergency response to oilspills. We should make sure that every agency with a role in this crisis, worked smoothly with every other agency.

It has been a difficult time in Rhode Island and, unfortunately, our difficulties are not over. We do not yet know the extent of our disaster. On the Federal level, we should do all we can to expedite the assistance and expertise that is required for that recovery.

In closing, I emphasize the fine job the Coast Guard did and my own respect for their gallant service.

I yield the floor.

HYPOCRISY

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I rise to call the attention of my colleagues today to an item or two that have been in the news of late. The theme that unites them loosely is the theme of ''hypocrisy.'' ''Hypocrisy,'' I have said, may well be the ''original sin'' in American political life.

The first of these subjects has been reported upon in many of this Nation's newspapers, but as of yet has been insufficiently remarked about among the denizens here in the village of Washington.

Lately we have been in the midst of one horrific battle over the budget, gnashing our teeth, wailing, and howling to the heavens—it would be the envy of King Lear—and referring to each other by every manner of cruel epithets.

What are the differences that divide us, to occasion this level of hysteria, hype, and hoorah and fingerpointing? Often the differences are in reality very minimal, such as a difference of all of the sum of $7 as to where Medicare part B premium should be in the year 2002. That was the entirety of the difference between the President's first position and the Congress' position. That is where we drew the first ''battle line,'' the first line, the first gauntlet thrown.

In my view, it would be just as silly to let this difference sink a budget agreement as it would be to let the size of the tax cut sink an agreement. These are not sufficient causes, in my estimation, to fail to meet our obligation to future generations.

One would know little of the minimal size of this difference from watching the evening news, but coincidentally, 7 bucks was the amount that part B premium stood to go up next year, from $46 a month to $53 a month, regardless of one's net worth or income, really not too destructive in society, especially when we do not have any test of income or wealth.

I wonder if all of my colleagues fully realize what has been happening out there in the private insurance market while these wretched hostilities have been taking place here in Washington. We have seen some most remarkable increases in insurance premiums, and one of them, ironically enough, comes to our gentle citizens courtesy of the American Association of Retired Persons, the AARP. You have heard me speak of them before. Yes, I have from time to time gently touched upon their activities.

Now I have in hand an article describing how this determined, dedicated and obsessed nonprofit organization is raising its medigap insurance premiums for the next 6 months, after which, who knows, they might even rise again. This is the same AARP, I remind my colleagues, the courageous and dogged defenders of the poor, the downtrodden, and the elderly, these are the very same folks who descend upon Washington in droves and hordes to tell us if Medicare part B premiums were to go up—these being voluntary premiums, please recall, voluntary premiums; you do not have to join—but that when this terrible thing happens, mind you, going from $46 to $53 next year regardless of your net worth or your income—and you were not forced into it and it was not any part of an original contract, you got in because it was the best deal in town—and if it goes up 7 bucks, seniors will be hurled out into the streets in their ragamuffin garb. Now, that is bah humbug.

Meanwhile—hear this—according to this article, a typical medigap customer of the AARP will see his or her monthly premiums rise from $147 to $178 next year, an increase of $31 a month.

Now, this was very striking to me. Let me read from their letter to their aggrieved legions of customers: "* * * because of rising claim costs, a rate increase will become necessary as of January 1, 1996. Your new rates are guaranteed for six months."

Let me be sure that every one of us understands. If there is any increase at all in Medicare part B premiums, a voluntary program in which 69 percent of the cost is paid by the ordinary, unbenefited taxpayer, this is decried as a "benefit cut" says the AARP. In their own propaganda, pumping their health care program, premiums must inevitably skyrocket because of inevitably, unavoidably—choke, gasp, sob—"rising costs." What unadulterated hypocrisy.

I do not see anything said here about a "benefit cut" to AARP's members although they are sticking it to their customers more than twice as severely as anything yet contemplated here for Medicare part B. No, with Medicare part B, their yowling answer, eternally hurled into the heavens, is always, just keep sticking it to the general taxpayers, never the beneficiary, regardless of their wealth, net worth or income. But when the AARP's own finances are right on the line, their customers are simply told curtly they are going to have to "pay up."

Yes, Mr. President, health care costs are going up. Who missed that in America? Some of that burden has to be shared. Who has missed that? With Medicare, most of it will be taken up by taxpayers, but the beneficiaries need to pick up some of that burden, too, if this country is going to avoid bankruptcy. That is the truth, and everyone in Washington knows it.

It has always been the height of deception for the AARP or the National Committee for the Preservation of Social Security and Medicare, or all of the similar tub-thumpers or anyone else to claim that it is some God-given right for beneficiaries to be held completely harmless in this process, or even to pretend that any sharing of Medicare cost increases is a "benefit cut." We see so well here from the AARP's own actions that they know full well that their own stance has been stunningly hypocritical.

I do now have a sensible proposal for the AARP. If they can find a way to bring their own membership's premiums back down to where they were before, then only, and only then, can they rightly continue to fight so vehemently against all premium increases in Medicare part B. If and when the AARP find this presently unknown and occult way to avoid all premium increases, perhaps they will share the great secret with us and then we can logically do the same and avoid any changes in Medicare part B premiums.

But so long as the AARP continues to rake in hundreds of millions annually in tax-exempt insurance income, I trust they will see the unseemliness of any further disgustingly patronizing lecture to our Government about "what to do with Medicare."

Let me remind my colleagues again that the AARP is getting a huge share of the take of this premium increase. They pull in more than $100 million annually—their current share of the take, their take—from the contract with Prudential Insurance. They could, I readily note, give up that pile of new cash and return that money right to their membership to offset some of the effects of this premium increase. It seems fair. It certainly does.

Does anyone believe that they will? Would any of my colleagues ever believe that the AARP will give up its share of the profit from this lucrative insurance business and return it to the membership, 3.2 million of their own members, who are getting stuck with this increase? No. For this might make it a little tougher for the AARP to meet the annual—you want to hear this one—the annual payments of $17 million in rent each year on its palatial building downtown genially dubbed the "Taj Mahal," or the payment of more than $69 million a year in salaries to themselves—many of them in chunks of more than $100,000 per year per person. There are many on the AARP payroll who make over $100,000 a year. And they lease their building for 17 million big ones every year on a 20-year lease. Figure that up for $8 a month dues. That will run the string for you.

No, I suspect they will continue to live in splendor here on E Street and leave their poor old customers scrambling to pay out the extra hundreds of dollars a year which they will have to shell out for this premium increase.

I trust my colleagues will remember this action the next time the AARP wanders in here—led by "Edna the Enforcer"—claiming to represent the interests of America's elderly. The bottom line for this organization is big business, and big profit, pure, and simple. Believe it.

The other item which I wish to describe for my genial colleagues is an excellent editorial by Gerald Eickhoff in Investor's Business Daily, entitled "What About Social Security?"

I ask unanimous consent this article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Investor's Business Daily]

WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY?

(By Gerald E. Eickhoff)

Labor Secretary Reich's worthy campaign against pension fraud begs a more serious question: Where is he on Social Security?

The secretary is sounding the alarm on private pension fraud. Yet he has said nary a word about the condition of America's public pension system.

Reich's current campaign means to help workers "know what to look for" so they can "ask the right questions" about their pensions.

Yet he must know that Americans would be well-advised to be at least as concerned with Social Security. After all, as a member of its Board of Trustees, he is well-acquainted with the trouble that lies ahead.

Fraud in a handful of 401(k) plans deserves attention, but it is trivial next to the potential for Social Security failure. Without reform, Social Security will surely either go bankrupt or bankrupt the nation. And trouble begins in just 10 years.

In 2005, the Social Security trust fund surpluses are expected to start declining. In other words, the program will begin to spend more than it takes in. Instead of masking the true size of the budget deficit, as it does now, it will begin to add to it.

By 2012, entitlement costs and interest on the debt together will consume all federal tax revenues.

By 2013, Social Security's surpluses will turn into deficits. And the overall federal budget deficit will explode.

The numbers are staggering. By the year 2020, annual Social Security obligations will exceed income from payroll taxes by an estimated $232 billion. That grows to $766 billion by 2030.

The demographic outlook tells why. In 1940, the average American lived to the age of 61, yet today average life expectancy is 76. In the next 35 years the number of Americans over age 70 will double to 48 million. That leaves just 2.2 workers to support one retiree, as opposed to 3.3 today and 159 in 1940.

Part of the problem is the looming retirement of the Baby Boom. But it goes much deeper, to Social Security's pay-as-you-go system—less charitably, a Ponzi scheme.

The private pension funds that so concern Secretary Reich are funded programs. Social Security is a mere promise to pay.

Yes, that promise is backed up by the full taxation power of the federal government. But because the trust fund is filled with IOUs from the government to the government, it is no more capable of paying future benefits than a dry well is of yielding water.

The notion of a trust fund, therefore, is at best misleading. At worst, it is accounting gimmickry of the highest order.

Future retirees have little chance of receiving benefits on a scale anything like those of today. Benefits such as they are will be paid either from borrowed money, from new debt piled onto the existing $5 trillion national debt or from tax receipts.

Because the federal government's ability to borrow is finite, however, increased taxes will be the inevitable last resort.

Current projections assume workers will be squeezed by taxes to prop up a failing system. Social Security payroll taxes will have to rise from today's 12.4% of pay to 16.5% in 2030. Under less optimistic assumptions, they could run as high as 37%.

Contrast this with the fact that in 1950, the average family of four paid just 2% of its income to the federal government. That included income and Social Security taxes.

You'd get hardly an inkling of this from a casual reading of the Social Security Trustee's report. Rather than blowing the whistle on the trust fund illusion, the Trustees confidently report that the fund "will be able to pay benefits for about 36 years."

The picture of Social Security's future is disturbing. But action now can avert a crisis. Lawmakers can prevent Social Security bankruptcy, devastating taxes, job loss and an uncertain retirement for millions. With determination and a clear goal, it is possible to not only save, but to vastly improve Social Security and its ultimate value to Americans.

No other issue has greater potential for future prosperity or calamity than Social Security reform. We must act now.

Reich's educational campaign on private pensions is a good place to start. Social Security is where we need to end up.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Eickhoff notes again the hypocrisy of Washington's concern about private pension fraud while, at the same time, ignoring the massive problems looming in Social Security. As Mr. Eickhoff notes, ''the private pension funds that so concern Secretary Reich are funded programs. Social Security is a mere promise to pay.'' That is correct—it is only a promise. The payments promised bear no relation to contributions made by past or current workers.

As the article notes, ''Future retirees will have little chance of receiving benefits on a scale anything like those of today. Benefits such as they are will be paid either from borrowed money, from new debt piled onto the existing $5 trillion national debt or from tax receipts.''

Absolutely. That is the way it will be. And let us not forget the projections we currently have, that under current law, if we did everything of the hideous programs presented by the majority party, we will still be saddled $6.2 trillion in debt by the end of this century. We are not doing any heavy lifting of any great import.

''Tax receipts,'' that is the phrase. That is what will darned sure be sought to pay for the benefits that have been promised—especially that pressure to pay it from tax receipts will come from the various seniors' lobbies. We will just hike the old payroll tax again, just as we did in 1983, and keep hiking it and keep hiking it on up to 30 percent of payroll by the year 2030, unless we ''do something'' about the growth of Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Everybody knows that, too. And the people who are telling us about the demise of Social Security are the trustees of Social Security, one of whom is my friend, Robert Reich, whom I enjoy thoroughly. A delightful gentleman. He and I do not concur on various philosophical items or ideologically. Another one is Donna Shalala, I have a similar regard for her, a very able lady. And Robert Rubin, another very capable person, even though we disagree heartily.

Those are the trustees. Those are three of them, telling us about the doomsday coming. While the present Commissioner of Social Security does nothing, nothing to tell us how do we get out of this box. Quit joshing us. What are your recommendations? You are the Commissioner, Shirley Chater. You are free of the influence of Congress and the President. You are an independent agency, so tell us. And we have nothing coming back except resounding speeches, tales, anecdotal material about how great Social Security is. ''But it will need some attention in the years to come.''

You betcha it will. It is $360 billion a year and we are not even touching it. We have a COLA attached to it that can be between $4 and $8 billion a year which goes out to people regardless of their net worth or their income. It cannot possibly succeed because it was never a pension. It was an income supplement. People are living longer and eating it all up. Now, every day, almost 8,000 people, since the 1st of January, will become 50 years old and they—not intentionally—will destroy the system. And we know it. And they know it. The trustees know it.

At least I hope, again, as we open this session, that my good colleagues will take a good look at the bipartisan work of Senator BOB KERREY and myself, eight bills to restore the solvency of Social Security in the years to come, starting now. Now—not 10 years from now, not 20 years from now—extending the age of retirement over the next 30 years so it is an easy step, allowing people to invest 2 percent of that contribution in a personal investment plan and the other 4.5 percent can go into, then, the system.

''That means a reduction of benefits.''

Indeed it does. Doing something with the current ratios with regard to retirement, not only for ourselves as Congresspersons but all Federal retirees. Doing 30-year budgeting in this particular area. Doing something with the Consumer Price Index. This is absurd. This is a no-brainer.

We heard testimony from everyone in the United States, the CPI [Consumer Price Index] was overestimated, from the figure of 0.5 to 2.2. If you just made the change and let it come down minus half a percent it comes $157 or $158 billion in the year 2002. But 10 years out it is nearly $700 billion in savings.

These are small items now that will overwhelm us 10 or 15 years from now. And no one is doing anything about it.

I say again, for the life of me I cannot understand what happened to the people in society between the ages of 18 and 45. They must be totally asleep or numb, or gone, because they will be gone when they are my age because there will be nothing there unless we begin to make the corrections. And that is the trustees telling us that, not some leftover specter of the past, some right-wing cuckoo from 20 years back or some left-wing zany. That is the trustees telling us this is what is going to happen to Social Security, and we do not even touch it. The President does not touch it. Congress does not touch it. And there are groups out there dedicated to see that you do not touch it.

So, I always say to them, ''Do you care about your children and grandchildren?''

They always say, ''Oh, yes, that is the purpose of our existence, caring for our children and grandchildren.''

I say, ''Forget it. I do not want to hear that one anymore. That is so much opium smoke. That is a phony.'' They cannot possibly care if they will not allow us to make the adjustments, or at least begin to make the adjustments now. And we all know what we have to do, all of us. And everybody downtown knows it. And the people of America, if they cannot figure all this out in the next 10 months, then get into the old booth and pull the trigger for the other party and say, ''Well, we have had enough of that. I do not know what that great experiment was, but, boy, when they touched Medicare, oh, God, I tell you I rose up. I showed them. And Medicaid and Federal retirement and Social Security.''

So, in that scenario, those of the other faith will come into the Halls of Congress, take over the majority party, and say, ''Boy, aren't we glad we saved you from them because now we are really going to get back to where we were before. We are going to let Medicare go up 10.5 to 12 percent per year. We will show them. Never do that cruel thing where we are going to let it go up only 7 percent a year, or 6.4. We are going to let Medicare and Medicaid go up 10 percent a year. Those were evil people trying to let it go up only 6 percent. We are not going to touch Social Security. We are just going to—well, we might—just add a little payroll tax. That will fall on the people in society who are not organized, who are not paying $8 a year dues to some organization which is dedicated to seeing how much more they can get out of the Treasury.''

So, that is what is out there and this can all be averted if, as Mr. Eickhoff notes, we act now to prevent a crisis. We simply cannot keep waiting until after the next election. We cannot keep saying that Social Security should be ''off the table.'' We have to adjust to the Consumer Price Index, as more and more are beginning to recognize, from the bipartisan Senate group to the ''Blue Dog'' Democrats to the Washington Post, for Heaven's sake, and we have to phase upward the retirement age and make a number of other changes if we are to have any chance of repairing this situation.

So I am very pleased to be working continually with my colleague and friend from Nebraska, BOB KERREY, in this effort. I continue to hold very serious hearings on this matter in the Social Security Subcommittee which I chair. But I will be having individuals there before us between the ages of 18 and 50 coming to testify, rather than a continual stream of people over 60 coming to testify. I remind my colleagues that Social Security is a promise to them, too. It does not exist simply to harvest the votes from today's retirees. That is what it has become.

We all know that even the Washington Post has been noting of late that it is folly to say that Social Security is ''off the table.'' A $360 billion program headed toward certain bankruptcy is ''off the table''? It is absurd. It is stupid. That cannot work. The very least we can do now is to fix the CPI. As I say, groups are working to do at the present time. Others have lately joined in these suggestions.

So I do hope my colleagues will read that article and recall that everything and all things we are doing right now on this budget is, or should be, for the benefit of future generations. I tell people at my town meetings; they do not hear it always. I tell it wherever I am. Nobody over 60 is going to get dinged at all in this process unless they are loaded. And if they are loaded, they might get stuck 20 to 40 bucks more a month. If they are not loaded, they will not get hit at all. People cannot even hear that. We cannot go on to ignore this ghastly problem in Social Security and yet ever be able to continue to claim that we have done right by them.

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to call the attention of my colleagues to a recent article in the Washington Post regarding the recommendations forthcoming from the Social Security Advisory Council. This is very important. People are ignoring these things because you are not supposed to mention these two detonating words—Social Security.

But that council was unable to agree upon a prescribed solution to the impending Social Security solvency crisis, and that is a similar experience with which I am very familiar. I served on the President's Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform. We have no difficulty defining the problem, and by a vote of 30 to 1 we agreed that it certainly existed. I have just shared with you moments ago what it is. But when it came time to solve it, only a hardy few were willing to give answers—Senator Bob KERREY, Senator Jack Danforth, Congressman Alex McMillan, Congressman PORTER GOSS, PETE PETERSON, and myself, to name a few of them—out of a 32–Member commission. So I do know what it is like to struggle for a year to get colleagues to confront a most serious problem, only to be overcome and overwhelmed by the ponderous difficulty of getting a majority to face before us political perils inherent in the solution.

Although the advisory council was unable to develop a consensus solution, there is much that is worth noting in the work that they have done. My colleagues would do well to study it. I myself again plan to have serious hearings on this subject this year in my Finance Committee's capacity as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security and Family Policy.

Three plans were voted on by the council. One is called the privatization plan, which would take roughly half of the existing contributions to Social Security and refund them to taxpayers to be invested in IRA's or 401(k)-type accounts which would earn retirement income for them while their previous Social Security benefits would be cut accordingly.

A few years ago, you could not even pose a discussion about such a plan without someone charging that you were out to destroy Social Security. Yet, this plan received five votes from these advisory council members. I think that shows a deep recognition of the need for fundamental reform of the system.

Another plan was backed by former Social Security Commissioner Robert Ball. He would stick very close to some of the more traditional solutions, as Mr. Ball has always done in the past. It would turn to increased taxation: imposing existing payroll taxes on State and local employees; imposing higher taxes on Social Security benefits, and, of course, raising the payroll tax rate. We have heard so much of that before.

But I draw my colleagues' attention to some of their other proposals. One is to reform the Consumer Price Index. Bear in mind that this is from the old guard, the most traditional defenders of the existing Social Security system, the people on this committee, this advisory committee, saying now that the CPI needs to be reformed for the sake of Social Security solvency. We need to hear that. If we cannot get that done at all in our current budget process, we are truly ''missing the boat.''

Here is something else they suggest. Having the Government invest the Social Security trust funds in stock market index funds as opposed to simply buying Government bonds. That is something which Senator KERREY and I have also proposed here in the Senate. That would have been absolute heresy a short time ago. These members of the advisory council will not go so far as to set up individual accounts; they would retain the pooled nature of the program. But, still, this would represent a most significant shift from current practice.

So I review all of that for my able colleagues so that they will see that the entire spectrum and scholars and ''experts'' on this issue tell us that fundamental reform is absolutely necessary in order for Social Security to survive. At the very least we must reform the CPI and get these retirement funds somewhere else other than where they are currently are, either into stock funds, or into private retirement accounts, if we are ever to generate the return that will be critically necessary to fund future benefits.

I would also note that a third option was described in this article as a ''halfway house'' measure. This plan would provide for two percentage points of the payroll tax to go into a 401(k) or an IRA-style plan. And the chairman of the council voted for that one. That intrigued me greatly because I had also joined Senator KERREY in offering a plan which had exactly this option as one of its components. Here they have described it as a ''halfway house'' measure.

So I, Mr. President—and you have known me a lifetime—have become, I whimsically conjecture, a ''moderate'' now when it comes to Social Security reform, which is touching. It is a touching thing. My colleague might surely be most intrigued to know that. But this Kerrey-Simpson-style proposal is now viewed by the advisory council itself as a compromise between differing approaches to reform of the system. Who would believe it?

So I trust that my colleagues will give their earnest attention to the deliberations of the Social Security Advisory Council, and note that all those who study this issue have concluded that fundamental reforms need to be made, starting at the very least with reforming the Consumer Price Index.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the year to come with regard to those issues that will come before the subcommittee which I chair.

I thank the Chair. I thank my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

CHARLES L. KADES—A FOUNDING FATHER OF MODERN JAPAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, 50 years ago next month, Col. Charles L. Kades, an aide on the staff of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, was placed in charge of an historic project to monitor and assist in the drafting of a new constitution for Japan. Colonel Kades worked in obscurity at the time, but he did his work brilliantly, and the resulting constitution he helped draft laid the groundwork for Japan to recover from the ashes of World War II and become one of the world's strongest democracies and one of the world's strongest economies. In no small measure, that historic success is the result of the vision, talent, and commitment of Charles Kades.

After his landmark service in Japan, Colonel Kades returned to the United States and practiced law with great distinction for many years in New York City. He retired in 1976, and moved to Heath, MA, where he now lives at the age of 89.

Over the years, the true magnitude of his historic contribution to Japanese democracy has become better known. As the golden anniversary of his golden achievement approaches, it is a privilege for me to take this opportunity to commend the extraordinary leadership he demonstrated 50 years ago. The dramatic story of his work was told in detail in an excellent article last year in the Springfield Sunday Republican, and I ask unanimous consent that the article may be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sunday Republican, Springfield, MA, Feb. 19, 1995]

HEATH RETIREE AN UNLIKELY FOUNDING FATHER OF JAPAN—LAWS WRITTEN 49 YEARS AGO

(By Eric Goldscheider)

HEATH.—In recent years scores of Japanese journalists and constitutional scholars have made the trek up to this Western Massachusetts hill town to see an 89-year-old retiree named Charles L. Kades.