

Assembly has designated Neighbor Day for statewide observance, and the Westerly Town Council would like to see the tradition become nation-wide and ultimately worldwide.

I hope my colleagues will join me and keep the sentiments of the people of Westerly close to our hearts and minds always, but particularly, this year, on May 19—the day Westerly will celebrate Neighbor Day.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that resolution of the Westerly Town Council, urging local recognition of Neighbor Day, be printed in the RECORD.

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

TOWN OF WESTERLY—RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Town Council of the Town of Westerly, County of Washington and State of Rhode Island, adopted a resolution to celebrate Neighbor Day in May each year on the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend in the Town of Westerly;

Whereas, the Town of Westerly proudly displays the adopted Neighbor Day logo on the Town of Westerly Calendar each year on the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend and places a proclamation in the Town's archives for posterity; and

Whereas, through the effort of our local legislators, the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations passed legislation designating this special day to be observed in communities throughout the State: Now therefore, be it hereby

Resolved, That the Westerly Town Council with deepest respect for all our Rhode Island legislators and United States Congressmen that they unite with one heart in a collaborative effort to aid in the reintroduction of Neighbor Day as a national day and through our representative to the United Nations to introduce and pass a world-wide Neighbor Day to be celebrated the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend in May of 1996 and each year thereafter; and be it further

Resolved, That the Westerly Town Council, in an effort to help our Congressman, hereby submits petitions signed by many citizens of all ages in our community to be used solely for this purpose and presented in support of this worthwhile effort in the hopes that Neighbor Day will be recognized and celebrated throughout the world.

MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM FOR PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, earlier this week, the International Body chaired by the Honorable George Mitchell, the distinguished former Senate majority leader, issued its report regarding the Northern Ireland peace process. Specifically, the International Body was charged by the British and Irish Governments with examining the twin tracks in the peace process—namely the decommissioning of weapons and all-party talks.

As my colleagues are aware, the current sticking point in the peace process is the relationship between the decommissioning of weapons and the convening of all-party talks. The International Body has done an excellent job of reaching out to the various par-

ties to hear their views on this difficult matter, and of characterizing the opposing views on that issue. I would particularly like to commend my friend George Mitchell for the fine work he has done in this regard.

The report lays out a very balanced set of recommendations focusing on six principles. Among other things, it recommends that the parties to the conflict “affirm their total and absolute commitment” to democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues, to the “total disarmament” of all paramilitary organizations, and that they renounce and oppose any effort to use force or threaten to use force to influence the all-party negotiations.

The report recognizes that “there is clear commitment” to decommission weapons as part of the process of all-party talks. It suggests that the parties consider decommissioning during, rather than before or after the process of all-party negotiations.

The report also includes a series of further confidence building measures that might be taken. On the question of elections, it suggests that “elections held in accordance with democratic principles express and reflect the popular will” and that “an elective process could contribute to the building of confidence.”

The report does not suggest, however, that elections proceed all-party talks. I know there is real concern among the various parties about the British Government's subsequent proposal that elections be held prior to all-party talks as such elections might further delay the process.

Perhaps most importantly, the report reminds us that “for nearly a year and half, the guns have been silent in Northern Ireland” and that “the people want that silence to continue.” For that to happen, there must be continued momentum in the peace process. The timely release of this report has gone a long way toward keeping the process moving. Delays at this juncture could scuttle the very real progress that has been made to date.

In establishing the International Body, Prime Minister Major and Prime Minister Bruton took decisive action to break the deadlock that had beset the negotiations. Let us hope that they, as well as all parties in Northern Ireland, will continue their courageous steps for peace.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE COACH FRANK HOWARD

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, one of the most famous institutions of the South is college football. For decades, southern colleges and universities have produced powerhouse teams that dominate bowl games and yield some of the most talented players that are to be found among professional football clubs. Without question, the Clemson University Tigers is one of the grand old teams of southern football, and

Frank Howard was the man who became synonymous not only with Clemson football, but with Clemson athletics. It is with great sadness that I rise today to mark his passing, and to pay tribute to him as a coach, a role model, a man, and a friend.

Frank Howard dedicated his life to Clemson University and its football program. He loved that school so much, that after he retired from coaching, he remained in South Carolina and continued to be an important part of Clemson University campus life. Not only did Frank attend virtually every Tiger home game, he maintained an office in the Jervy Athletic Center and was affectionately, and appropriately, given the title of “Legend.” During his career, Frank amassed one of the most impressive victory records in college football, fielding winning teams year after year, and capturing several Atlantic Coast Conference championships. In addition to his skills as a coach, Frank was a gifted recruiter, and that combination ensured that Clemson always had a team of enthusiastic, talented, and well coached players. Countless individual and team records were set by Clemson players during Frank's three-decade tenure at the University, and many of his players went on to become some of the most respected individuals to take to the gridiron in the National Football League.

Frank was the first to admit that there was no secret to how he won football games: he believed in playing aggressive football. As he said time and time again, “Blocking and tackling wins games.” While Frank stood for little nonsense as a coach, as some thought him gruff, he was a man who truly loved his players and set an example for them to be individuals who not only truly loved his players and set an example for them to be individuals who not only had a commitment to winning, but to good sportsmanship as well. As any coach would be, Frank was proud of his players who went on to play professional football, and believe me Mr. President, there was no shortage of such individuals. Through the years, Tigers have played on probably every team in both the American and National Football Conferences. What separated Frank from many other coaches is that he was equally proud of his players who never made the roster of a pro team, but who contributed to the growth and success of South Carolina. Frank was always quick and pleased to note that many of his former players went on to become influential and respected leaders in professions as diverse as the law, medicine, business, academics, and religion. No doubt, their accomplishments are in large part attributable to the influence that Frank Howard had on them while they were young men.

Mr. President, Frank Howard was once quoted as saying,

When I die I want to be buried up there on that hill near the stadium. I want to be there

so I can hear all them people cheering my Tigers on Saturday and where I can smell that chewing tobacco in ever corner of the stadium. Then I won't have to go to heaven. I'll already be there.

I am pleased to note that as Frank desired, he will be buried on Cemetery Hill, where he will be able to watch over his beloved Tigers. While Frank is going to be buried in his version of heaven, I have no doubt that St. Peter ushered him past the Pearly Gates, and at this moment he is gathered around a chalkboard with the other greats of coaching, going over games and plays, and enjoying the praises of his peers for his career of accomplishments. Needless to say, Coach Frank Howard will be missed by his large circle of friends, tens of thousands of football fans, and a grateful State. We all send our heartfelt condolences to his widow, Ruth, and to the rest of Frank's family.

THE STATUS OF THE FARM BILL

Mrs. MURRAY. While the debate continues in Congress over the future of farm policy for our Nation, I wanted to outline some of my priorities for agriculture in 1996.

While Congressman ROBERTS continues to push for his proposal to decouple farm payments, I am committed to maintaining a safety net for our farmers. Coupling payments to both production and the marketplace is a good way to preserve the safety net. Farm payments should occur when prices are low so our farmers can sustain their capacity to produce. When prices are high, the market can and will sustain our farmers.

Payments should also be tied to production. Farm payments should be given to those working the land today, not simply to those who have received payments in the past. When Congress authorized the 1990 farm bill it was understood that the program was voluntary. That is to say, you only needed to be farming in order to be eligible to participate. Now the Republican proposal requires participation over the last 5 years in order to continue participating. The farm programs would not longer be open to anyone currently farming, but only to those who had participated between 1990 and 1995, regardless of whether or not they were still farming.

I also think we should preserve the permanent authority for farm programs embodied in the 1949 agriculture law. In my opinion, repeal of the 1949 law sends a clear message that our historic commitment to the farmers of our Nation is ending. We must preserve this law as a constant reminder of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a stable food supply for our Nation. Preserving permanent authority for farm programs also recognizes the vital role that agriculture plays, and will continue to play, in this Nation's economy.

I am frustrated that Congress has failed to recognize the vital impor-

tance of agriculture to our economy. We must maintain our commitment to farmers, and farm programs must be tied to production and marketplace. I am willing to work with my fellow Members to act quickly on a farm bill that provides certainty and security to our farmers, both now and in the future.

In addition, I feel the farm bill should not be broken up so that food stamps and conservation programs are not addressed in conjunction with the commodity programs. The simultaneous consideration of these areas of farm policy represent a balanced approach that recognizes the obligations of our Nation not only to our farmers, but also to our poor and our environment. While the farm bill is designed to enhance and ensure the bountiful production of food from our land, it must also address the distribution of that bounty to those of our Nation in need. With all the food we produce, we must make sure it gets to the millions of hungry mouths in our cities and towns. While we help farmers to cultivate their land, we must also encourage them to preserve it when and where appropriate. USDA's Conservation Reserve Program is twice the size of the USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Program. The contributions of this program to the preservation of wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife cannot be understated.

As the debate over the farm bill continues, I am committed to working for these principles and to look out for the best interests of the hard working families on the farms of my great State of Washington.

GREAT PLAINS SYNFUELS PLANT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my grave concerns about a matter that is currently under review before the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission [FERC].

The future operation of the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, located in Beulah, ND, is being seriously threatened by a recent ruling in a case pending before FERC. This decision ignores not only the adverse economic consequences that the decision will have on the people of North Dakota and the region, but it fails to consider the strong public policy reasons supporting both the initial construction of the Great Plains alternative energy plant and its successful operation for years to come. I urge FERC to reconsider the ruling in this light.

The Great Plains plant now employs 640 people in North Dakota and represents 20 percent of the lignite coal produced and consumed in the State. In addition, there are more than 400 construction workers presently employed at the Great Plains site who are involved in two ongoing capital construction projects valued at hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Great Plains plant has an enormous impact on North Dakota's econ-

omy. Several independent economists have estimated that the direct and indirect economic impact of the Great Plains plant is about \$500 million every year—a sizable impact given North Dakota's small population.

Great Plains was constructed with a loan guaranteed by the Department of Energy [DOE] pursuant to the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research Act of 1974. Specifically, that act authorized DOE to provide loan guarantees to assist in the demonstration of alternative fuel technologies using coal, oil shale, biomass, and other sources. Great Plains is the only alternative energy project still operating today that was built because of the Federal Government's efforts in the late 1970's and early 1980's to achieve energy independence for this country.

DOE operated the Great Plains plant for several years after its original sponsors in 1985 abandoned the project. In 1988, DOE sold Great Plains to the Dakota Gasification Co.—a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative—because Dakota was absolutely committed to the long-term operation of the plant. Dakota's commitment was made based upon the continued validity of FERC Opinion 119, which approved the gas purchase agreements between Great Plains and the four pipeline purchasers, and the reasonable assumption that FERC would stand behind its opinion.

Since purchasing the plant, Dakota has acted to promote, to develop and to demonstrate the very technological potential that first prompted the Federal Government to finance the plant's construction. For example, Dakota has produced an annual average of 157 million standard cubic feet of synthetic gas a day from a facility designed to produce a maximum of 137.5 million standard cubic feet a day with virtually no additional capital investment. Because of this increased production and its other efforts, Dakota has continued to decrease both the real and nominal cost of producing synthetic gas.

At the same time, Dakota has been developing new by-products from the coal gasification process, such as rare gases and other chemicals, for commercial sale in this country and abroad. Dakota is currently embarking on several extensive investment projects costing several hundred million dollars. These projects depend upon the long-term operation of the plant and the continued application of FERC's Opinion 119.

One important project involves developing one of the plant's by-products—carbon dioxide—as a method to enhance secondary oil recovery in the United States and Canada. The other project uses a significant portion of the plant's raw synthetic gas to produce on-site anhydrous ammonia for use in a commercial fertilizer that is currently imported into the United States and is in short supply. Another cutting edge technology being developed at the