

below which arterial pressure increases has been documented in experimental models and in epidemiological reports linking low calcium intake to higher arterial pressures. The threshold range overlaps with the median intake of calcium for adults. As observed by Bucher et al, such a threshold effect predicts that trials composed of participants with varying baseline calcium intake may result in a heterogeneous response, with a negligible or small benefit. The benefits for those individuals whose calcium intake is below the threshold may be masked by the null effect in those whose baseline calcium intake is sufficient.

To better estimate the cardiovascular impact of achieving the recommended levels of dietary calcium intake, researchers should focus either on subjects who are below the threshold or on those whose threshold has shifted upward because of biological demands. Bucher et al did both. Numerous observers have confirmed our index report that persons with hypertension consume less calcium and thus are more likely to be below the threshold. As that evidence would predict, Bucher and colleagues identified a larger benefit of increasing calcium intake in hypertensive than in normotensive subjects.

Calcium requirements vary across the life span. When calcium needs are increased, the relationship between calcium intake and biological responses may be amplified. By analyzing separately the randomized controlled trials in pregnant women, Bucher et al tested this relationship. Gestation is a transient period of increased risk of elevated arterial pressure. It is also a period in which the metabolic demand for calcium increases dramatically. In this otherwise healthy, young, normotensive population, Bucher et al established an unequivocal benefit of increasing calcium intake for both mean arterial pressure and the incidence of pregnancy-induced hypertension, which was reduced by 70%. Preeclampsia was reduced by more than 60%.

The observation of Bucher et al that cardiovascular benefits of sufficient calcium intake increased with the quality of the study strongly supports the validity of these findings. The fact that pregnant women 20 years of age or younger benefited more than older pregnant women is another example of increased biological needs for calcium amplifying the relationship between calcium level and blood pressure. Younger pregnant women must provide calcium for the fetus as well as their own continued skeletal growth, thus multiplying their daily requirement. While the current calcium intake recommendation for pregnant women and adolescent females is 1200 to 1500 mg/d, their reported median intake is 600 to 700 mg/d. As the analysis of Bucher et al revealed, the cardiovascular benefits of consuming sufficient calcium are greater in those whose intake is least adequate for biological demands. As noted by these authors, what remains to be confirmed are the trends for reduced maternal and fetal morbidity. Similarly, the impact of adequate calcium intake on infant and childhood blood pressure must be defined, because calcium needs are increased at this time. The anticipated release of data from the National Institutes of Health trial of Calcium for Preeclampsia Prevention (CPEP) should address these issues.

For pregnant women the goal is clear, calcium intake must meet metabolic needs. Current intakes in women of childbearing age are not sufficient to assure optimal gestational blood pressure regulation. Younger women can no longer assume that the consequences of inadequate calcium intake will emerge only decades later as osteoporosis. They may occur within 9 months as serious complications for both mother and child. Op-

timizing calcium intake will benefit not only pregnant women but also society in general. The 1992 direct health care costs related to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and their sequelae have been estimated at \$18 billion to \$22 billion. Using the most conservative estimates of Bucher et al, the savings from increasing calcium intake during pregnancy might reach several billion dollars within 1 year.

In virtually all age, sex, and ethnic categories of the US population, median calcium intake is equal to or less than the minimum recommendation, leaving more than 50% of individuals consuming inadequate amounts of calcium. For those groups at higher risk of hypertension (African Americans, pregnant women, the obese, and the elderly), the situation is worse. Furthermore, consuming adequate calcium is no longer simply a "women, issue." After age 40 years, American men have a median calcium intake of less than 750 mg/d. For African-American men, whose risk of hypertension is two to three times that of their white counterparts, the median calcium intake is less than 600 mg/d. There are therefore many reasons, including control of arterial pressure, why every individual should be advised to consume the current recommended level of calcium as a general health measure.

DAVID A. MCCARRON, MD.  
DANIEL HATTON, PhD.

#### DESPITE ITS FLAWS, A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET AGREEMENT

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, late last week we finally approved a budget for the fiscal year which started 7 months ago. After long and heated negotiations, Presidential vetoes, and numerous shutdowns of the Federal Government, that budget protected many of the priorities that had been identified by the President and by Democrats here in Congress, including key investments in education, crime prevention, the environment, and other key areas. It also effectively removed many of the policy-related riders that would have done so much damage to our efforts to protect Americans in the workplace, and to protect the environment; major victories for all Americans.

The bulk of the funding for key education and job training programs, which I had fought hard to restore through an amendment on the Senate floor, was retained by the conferees. Key Federal investments in the skills, character, and intellect of our children must remain our highest priority.

The conferees also preserved funding for the new community policing program called COPS, which has provided funding for over 430 new police in Minnesota, and over 34,000 nationwide. Ultimately, it is scheduled to put 100,000 new police on the streets of our Nation's cities and towns. Chiefs of Police and sheriffs from across the country, from big cities, small towns, rural areas and suburbs, have supported this program because they know that more police make a real difference in combatting crime. This is a victory for communities nationwide who are struggling to bring down crime and combat fear in their streets by

strengthening their community policing programs.

In addition to these major victories, the measure gained overwhelming approval here in the Senate because many Senators, including myself, believed that we must not allow to continue to go unfunded key Federal agencies and departments which protect the environment, provide funding for schools, protect the health and safety of Americans in their workplaces, provide funding for critical Federal health benefits, or support a host of other Federal activities.

While on balance I believe the bill goes a long way toward protecting key priorities, there are some areas where very large budget cuts will still be made by this bill. For example, I am very concerned that the House conferees insisted on slashing advance funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which is critical to thousands of Minnesotans who rely on it for heating aid in very cold weather.

Despite the battles over LIHEAP funding this past winter, and my amendment urging the Senate conferees not to accede to House demands to scuttle advance funding for this program, passed by a vote of 77 to 23, Senate conferees agreed to drop advance funding for next winter. This is a major and unwise policy change, and makes it doubly important that adequate funding for the entire heating season be provided in the fiscal year 1997 Labor-HHS appropriations bill that will be developed soon by the Appropriations Committee; I will fight to fully restore these funds during that process.

There are also substantial cuts in programs for the arts, for legal service programs which ensure that the constitutionally guaranteed rights of even low-income people are secured within our legal process, for Federal Indian education efforts, for job training, for homeless programs, and for a host of other key public investments in our future. While I recognize the need to continue to reduce the deficit, I opposed these cuts, and will be working to restore critical funding in these areas in the coming months.

Mr. President, I did not agree with all of the priorities contained in the omnibus appropriations bill. It is not the bill I would have written. My colleagues know I would restructure Federal spending in very different ways, even while securing the same level of savings. But this final agreement allowed us finally to move beyond last year's funding fights, and to turn our attention to this year's appropriations process. That is why I supported it, despite its flaws. I hope we can do better this year; Americans deserve a more orderly and responsible process, with very different priorities, than Congress delivered this year. •

# CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVERSITY OF UTAH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SKI TEAM NCAA CHAMPS

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I am pleased to offer my spirited congratulations to the University of Utah Men's and Women's Ski Team on their recent NCAA championship. The University of Utah has a lengthy tradition of producing competitive, skilled student-athletes and I am proud to recognize these champions today.

I would like to congratulate their individual hard work and dedication, as well as their competitive team spirit and unity. Utah is proud to be represented by these talented student-athletes and coaches. The University of Utah Men's and Women's Ski Team of 1996 are true champions and I would like to mention each member of their team individually.

I congratulate Women's Alpine team members: Christi Hager, Heather Munroe, Tina Kavcic; the Men's Alpine team members: Alain Britt-Cote, Mike Elvidge, Andy Hare; the Women's Cross-Country team: Stine Hellerud, Heidi Selnes, Ingvil Snofugl; and the Men's Cross-Country team: Tor Arne Haugen, Asle Slettemoen, Kurt Wulff.

I would also like to congratulate the coaches Mark Bonnell, Kevin Sweeney, and John Farra, as well as the trainer Greg Thorpe and the Director of Skiing at the University of Utah, Pat Miller. Utah is proud of the accomplishments of this team and its coaches.

In addition to being home to the "Greatest Snow on Earth", the U.S. Ski Team and the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, Utah is proud to be the home of fine higher education institutions like the University of Utah. To the talented and skilled student-athletes and coaches on the 1996 Men's and Women's Ski Team from the University of Utah, I give my heartfelt congratulations on their 1996 NCAA championship and confidence we will continue to see their names listed among the outstanding athletes in the country and the world.●

## ZOO AND AQUARIUM MONTH

• Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to the valuable research performed by the Metro Washington Park Zoo in Portland, OR, and the other member institutions of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association [AZA]. These zoos and aquariums use the most advanced technology and some of the most dedicated of our Nation's scientists to ensure the survival of species worldwide. Research

is the first step in conservation, and during April, which is Zoo and Aquarium Month, I would like to recognize the many steps toward conservation taken by AZA institutions.

Zoos and aquariums were among the first institutions to recognize the threat of species extinction around the world and to make research geared to alleviating this problem one of their top priorities. Their ever-increasing expertise has since served as a valuable resource to conservation efforts throughout the world. I am proud to commend the staff of Metro Washington Park Zoo for their significant contributions to the conservation and breeding of Asian elephants. The research performed by Metro Washington Park Zoo and its AZA counterparts help ensure that our grandchildren will enjoy the same animals that we all enjoy today. The research enables us to better understand our world and, ultimately, ourselves.

Our Nation has long acknowledged the value of our local zoos and aquariums. They educate as well as entertain, and have long served as playgrounds for our children's imagination. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing April as Zoo and Aquarium Month, and I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to visit their local zoo or aquarium with their family and friends.●

## MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 53.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I send a joint resolution to the desk and ask unanimous consent that it be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1996

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9 a.m., Tuesday, April 30, further, that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed with, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and there then shall be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, except for the

following: Senator CHAFEE and Senator BREAUX for a total of 60 minutes. I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the immigration bill, and that the Senate recess from the hours of 12:30 p.m., to 2:15 p.m., for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## PROGRAM

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1664, the immigration bill, and the pending amendment offered by Senator GRAHAM, tomorrow morning. Senators are encouraged to offer their germane amendments to the SIMPSON amendment throughout the day, therefore, rollcall votes may occur prior to the 12:30 recess, and can be expected throughout Tuesday's session. A cloture motion was filed to the immigration bill this evening, therefore, that cloture vote will occur on Wednesday. As a reminder, under the provisions of rule XXII, Senators have until the hour of 12:30 tomorrow in order to file first-degree amendments to the underlying bill, S. 1664.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, if there be no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 30, 1996, at 9 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 29, 1996:

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AVIS T. BOHLEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA.

MARISA R. LINO, OF OREGON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA.

JOHN FRANCIS MAISTO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.

ANNE W. PATTERSON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR.