

THE NATO ENLARGEMENT FACILITATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I have long been a supporter of the transatlantic community of nations and its cornerstone institution, NATO. And today I wish to express my support for the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996—extremely important legislation which I also cosponsor.

This bill is designed specifically to support and foster the careful, gradual extension of NATO membership to the nations of Central and Eastern Europe. If passed, this bill would direct tangible assistance to the efforts of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary to join the alliance. These nations are the most prepared of their region for the responsibilities and burdens of NATO membership.

Equally important, it is the intent of the authors of this bill to assist other Central and Eastern European countries whose economies and democracies have sufficiently progressed to move forward toward eventual NATO membership.

Such a policy is absolutely necessary to ensure that NATO's acceptance of Polish, Czech, and Hungarian applications for membership not create new divisions in Europe, but is instead part of an inclusive and on-going process that will extend to the entire community of European nations.

Extending the alliance's membership to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, will help transform Central and Eastern Europe into a cornerstone of enduring peace and stability in post-cold-war Europe. It would do so for the following reasons:

First, the NATO enlargement would project security into a region that has long suffered as a security vacuum in European affairs. History has repeatedly shown us that the strategic vulnerability of Central and Eastern Europe has produced catastrophic consequences—consequences that drew the United States twice this century into world war.

Second, NATO enlargement would help facilitate the economic and political integration of Central and Eastern Europe into the transatlantic community of nations. Passage of our NATO enlargement legislation would demonstrate America's commitment to consolidating an enlarged Europe. This would give more incentive to all the nations of the region to continue their political and economic reforms by demonstrating that these reforms do result in tangible geopolitical gains.

By projecting stability into Central and Eastern Europe, NATO enlargement would reinforce the regional stability necessary for nations to focus on internal political and economic reform. Mr. President, security is not an alternative to reform, but it is essential for reform to occur.

Third, two great European powers, Germany and Russia, are now undergoing very complex and sensitive transformations. Their futures will be

significantly shaped by the future of Central and Eastern Europe. Extending NATO membership to nations of this region will reinforce the positive evolutions of these two great powers.

In the case of Germany, NATO enlargement would further lock German interests into a transatlantic security structure and further consolidate the extremely positive role Bonn now plays in European affairs.

The extension of NATO membership to Central and East European nations would also be of great benefit to Russia. By enhancing and reinforcing stability and peace in Central and Eastern Europe, NATO enlargement would make unrealistic calls by Russia's extremists for the revitalization of the former Soviet Union or the westward expansion of Russian hegemony. Greater stability along Russia frontiers will enable Moscow to direct more of its energy toward the internal challenges of political and economic reform.

This point is too often forgotten in this debate. There has been too strong a tendency in United States policy to overreact to outdated Russian sensitivities. This overreaction comes at the expense of strategic realities and objectives central to the interests of the alliance, as well as to the United States.

I would also like to note that this NATO enlargement legislation reflects the attitudes of many of our parliamentary counterparts in Europe. The North Atlantic Assembly, a gathering of legislators from the 16 nations of NATO, adopted at the end of 1994, my resolution calling for the extension of membership in the alliance to Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.

Mr. President, America's defense and security must be structured to shape a strategic landscape that enhances economic, political, and military stability all across Europe. Careful and gradual extension of NATO membership to nations of Central and Eastern Europe is a critical step toward this end. This is in our national interest. It is action long overdue, and it is the intent of the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996.

For these reasons, I call upon my colleagues in the Senate, as well as President Clinton and his administration, to embrace this legislation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BRADLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey [Mr. BRADLEY] is recognized to speak for up to 40 minutes.

RACE FOR THE CURE

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I will not take 40 minutes, but I am very pleased to be joined by colleagues in the Chamber today in recognizing the 1996 national Race for the Cure. The race, which will take place this year on Saturday, June 15, is a unique opportunity to bring together the many people whose lives have been touched by breast cancer.

This year, Capitol Hill has an opportunity to play a tremendous role in this race. Today is the first on-site Capitol Hill registration, and today is also the beginning of something very special in this race. For every Capitol Hill participant who registers, the company Eli Lilly has generously offered to match their registration fee in the form of a donation to Race for the Cure. So for every individual who signs up to participate, your contribution to the race will be doubled. In other words, one can really make a difference here and have that difference amplified.

For all those who are unfamiliar with Race for the Cure, the race is a 5-kilometer run or, in my case, walk that raises money for breast cancer research and for early screening for underprivileged women in underserved communities in the District, Maryland, and Virginia. The race also allows a new generation of women to be made aware of the risks associated with breast cancer. Although we still do not have a cure, we do have screening devices which can increase the early detection that prolongs life. Education and awareness is one of our strongest weapons in the fight against breast cancer.

Today in America, 500 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Most likely, each will be frightened, uncertain of her future, and in search of a treatment that, if it cannot cure her, will at least prolong her life. Each woman's family and friends, coworkers, and caregivers will worry deeply about her.

Today in America, 150 women will die of breast cancer. Their lives will be ended prematurely, their family, friends, coworkers and caregivers will be grief-stricken. Listen to the enormity of the disease: Fully one out of nine women in this country will get breast cancer, one out of nine women. Since 1960, nearly 1 million women have died from this disease. With their deaths, millions of their loved ones, including children and aging parents dependent upon them, have suffered as well. We stagger under these numbers, even as we search for the causes and for a cure.

All women are at risk for breast cancer, with the incidence increasing among older women and the mortality rate higher for African American women. While other factors that may put a woman at risk are being thoroughly investigated, we are still, ourselves, at risk for feeling helpless in the face of this killer. I speak about this with personal experience. In 1992, my own wife contracted breast cancer. Ernestine had a mastectomy and chemotherapy for 6 months. As I sat and watched the devastating impact of chemotherapy on her body, I thought to myself, 100 years from now people will look back and maybe consider this treatment like the leeches of the 18th century, it is so devastating. She persevered. It was a trauma for our whole family. It was, for me, the moment

that I realized that sometimes catastrophe can overtake the best laid plans and that every day has to be lived to its fullest because one cannot take tomorrow for granted.

That is kind of the secondary benefit of this whole experience, learning that every day must be lived to the fullest extent possible because one does not know about tomorrow. But one thing my wife feels very strongly, having come out of the treatment with flying colors, being cancer-free now for over 3 years, is that she does not consider herself a victim of breast cancer. She considers that she has triumphed over breast cancer. Early detection and more research for a cure will allow millions of other women to have that feeling as well; that they, too, have triumphed over breast cancer.

So, remembering that the women who battle this disease are our wives, sisters, mothers, daughters, and friends, I am proud to join the estimated 30,000 other runners, walkers, rollerbladers and wheelchair participants, who will participate in the Race for the Cure on June 15. Today I ask all of my colleagues and the staff who work on Capitol Hill to consider participating in the race on June 15. There are already 55 registrants from the Bradley office. Last year I think we were No. 1. Registration is simple. In-person registration is available for all Hill participants today. Let me repeat that. Registration is available today at the Reserve Officers Association Building, which is on the corner of First Street and Constitution, right across from the Hart Office Building.

Registering for the race will be one of the easiest tasks you can do today. Frankly, participating in the race on June 15 will be one of the most rewarding. If you have not done it, I urge you to do it. It will be a morning that you will not forget, and your efforts could really make a difference.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I commend my colleague from New Jersey for setting aside the time this morning to talk about the issue and the commitment that we have to conquering breast cancer, which is the largest killer of women between the ages of 35 and 54 in this country. I thought it was poignant to hear my colleague, Senator BRADLEY, talk about this issue not only as a women's health issue, which it very much is, but as the family issue that it is. He talked about the fact that there was a trauma in his whole family. Of course there was. This is a disease that affects men, it affects children and families as well as the women in this country.

Two of the leaders in the Senate on this issue have been Senators whose wives have had breast cancer, Senator BRADLEY and Senator MACK of Florida. I am pleased they have taken this lead-

ership role and joined with all of the women in the Senate—eight of us, soon to be nine—that all have had instances in our families or among our friends of women who have had to battle this terrible disease, one which I think we are on the cusp of solving. I thank the Senator from New Jersey and the Senator from Florida and all the women who have come together to understand the importance of conquering breast cancer.

I want to talk a little bit about my own history with the Komen Foundation. The history of the Komen Foundation is written on this piece of paper. It says, "In 1982 Nancy Brinker established the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation with only a few hundred dollars of her own and a shoe box full of friends' names."

Mr. President, my name was in Nancy Brinker's shoe box. I was one of those that Nancy called together to put on the first Race for the Cure and the first luncheon in Dallas, TX, in 1983. I was a friend of Nancy Brinker, who is one of the most extraordinary people I have ever known. I will say that this history of the Komen Foundation grossly underestimates Nancy's monetary commitment, her time commitment, and her number of friends. She had friends all over the United States as well as in Dallas, because she was such a giving person.

Because she had the experience of sitting with her 36-year-old sister who died of breast cancer before her very eyes, she made the commitment to her sister at that time that she would spend her life trying to educate and research this issue so this would not happen to other people. So, 13 years later, I never thought I would be standing on the Senate floor, talking about the Race for the Cure in Washington, DC, but in fact that is exactly what has happened. This has spread like wildfire, because so many families in this country are affected by breast cancer and, frankly, because we have not done enough to highlight and focus on the research that is necessary to beat this disease.

In the last 2 years, I want to point out, Congress has been committed to promoting women's health care issues. Breast cancer research and funding has increased over 10 percent per year in the last 2 years. The National Institutes of Health funding for breast cancer has increased over the last 2 years, and last year Congress directed the National Cancer Institute to set aside a portion of its budget to be used for research grants and projects to further the national action plan on breast cancer.

We developed the National Women's Health Information Clearinghouse in 1995 and 1996, and Congress appropriated \$2.1 billion for the space station, which is the sole environment possible for studying certain aspects of breast and ovarian cancer and osteoporosis.

A lot of people do not realize that you cannot create the antigravity con-

ditions in space on Earth. You cannot do it. So the space station has given us a new outlet to look at breast and ovarian cancer cells and to look at the bone loss in osteoporosis, all three of which are unique to women.

Osteoporosis is not exclusively a woman's disease, but it does hit women the hardest. These are best able to be studied in the microgravity conditions in space. That is one of the reasons why I am so committed to the space station and the importance of space station research for getting to these women's health issues that we have not been able to conquer heretofore.

So I commend the Komen Foundation for all they have given to save lives in this country. Let's talk about the way that they have saved lives. Just by their education efforts, they have told women all over our country of the importance of self-examination for early detection, because we find many times women can detect, before they even go for their annual mammogram, that they have a lump that they need to have checked out. This is, in fact, what saved Nancy Brinker's life. Because she had been so educated in the need for early detection because of the death of her sister, Susan G. Komen, it did save her life. But Nancy has gone on with the Komen Foundation to save thousands of women's lives because they now know the importance of an annual mammogram after the age of 35 and the importance of self-examination. This is the most important thing the Komen Foundation has done.

But in addition to this, the Komen Foundation has also provided millions of dollars for research through their luncheons and their races for the cure for breast cancer. The research funding goes directly to the doctors who are trying to discover what causes breast cancer so that we can find the cure.

So the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which started only 13 years ago, and which is going to have its annual Race for the Cure in Washington, DC, has done so much, as well as the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who come to the races, who pay their entry fee, who volunteer to help coordinate the races, have really given to this project of trying to find the cure for breast cancer.

I want to say that the Vice Presidents of the United States have been a very big part of this. Vice President Dan Quayle and his wife, Mrs. Quayle, started by highlighting and focusing the Washington Race for the Cure. I am proud to say that Vice President AL GORE and his wife, Tipper, have continued that tradition, and they will be leading this year's Race for the Cure in Washington.

This just helps us bring in the 25,000 people who are now going to run in the Race for the Cure, and all of this money goes to heightening the awareness of women about the need for early detection, and it goes to the research that will get to the cause of this dreaded disease so that we will be able to find the cure.

I am very proud to say that this is a woman's issue upon which all of us can agree. We must find the cure, and I commend the thousands of volunteers around this country who have taken up the cause.

I will just add that I had a wonderful experience this past Saturday doing the start of the Race for the Cure in Plano, TX. It just does your heart good to see the women who wear the pink visors. The women who wear the pink visors are the breast cancer survivors, and they have the number of years since they had detected breast cancer put on their visors. There were a number of those out there, and there were the people who wear the tags on their bags that said, "I am running in memory of my mother," "my grandmother," "my sister." The men and women who run are generally running with spirit and heart because they have been affected in some way by this disease.

I was able to witness the women's 5K, and the men's 5K, and then the children's 1K. We had toddlers who were still in their strollers. We had toddlers who were barely walking. But we had a spirit out in Plano, TX, that is something I see every time I attend a Race for the Cure.

So I urge my colleagues to participate on June 15. I urge anyone in America who has not been to a Race for the Cure to go to one. If you do not have one in your hometown, start one. This is a cause upon which we can all agree and something that will bring us together and eventually solve this dreaded disease that affects the women, the men, and the children in families across America.

Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

Mr. AKAKA addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise with others of my colleagues in the Senate in support of the sixth annual National Race for the Cure, which will be held in Washington, DC, on Saturday, June 15, this year.

Race for the Cure, as has been noted, is a breast cancer benefit run sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker in honor of her sister who died of breast cancer at the age of 36.

Since its creation, the foundation, through events such as Race for the Cure, has raised millions of dollars to promote education, promote awareness, promote research, and promote early detection of the disease.

Three-fourths of the money raised goes toward local treatment and screening activities, while one-fourth of the funds goes to the Komen Foundation to fund national research activities.

The statistics on breast cancer remain startling, Mr. President. This year, an estimated 44,000 women in our country will die from breast cancer,

and another 184,000 will be diagnosed with the disease. I continue to have great concern over the high incidence and low survival rates for this disease among minority and low-income women. I remain particularly concerned that the Native Hawaiian women have the highest incidence of breast cancer among all racial and ethnic groups in this country.

While the cause of breast cancer remains unknown and the disease is not fully understood, significant advancements have been made in the management of breast cancer. As with many of the life-threatening illnesses, early detection of breast cancer, coupled with appropriate and timely followup, remains the most effective method to ensure successful treatment and improved survivability. However, Mr. President, much work remains. Many women do not know how to conduct self-examinations, and many would benefit from a screening mammogram. Some of them do not seek it because of fear, because of cost or even because of lack of access.

In closing, Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues and their staff and families to participate in the 1996 National Race for the Cure. All of us have families or friends who have battled breast cancer.

In particular, this sixth annual race has special meaning for those of us in the Senate. This year's race is dedicated to the memory of Martha Moloney, a longtime aide to Senator WENDELL FORD who lost her valiant fight against breast cancer last November.

Continuing the fight against breast cancer is the most appropriate way to honor Martha's memory and to recognize the heroic efforts of millions of women and their families confronting this disease.

Mr. President, this is one of those dreaded diseases in our country. We all need to support the race 100 percent and participate in all of these activities.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. KEMPTHORNE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Thank you very much.

Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues this morning in expressing support for the National Race for the Cure. I want to acknowledge and salute the Senator from New Jersey, Senator BRADLEY, for encouraging us to take a few moments this morning to focus on this very important issue.

It is particularly appropriate for those of us in Congress to acknowledge the importance of battling this disease. We represent a wide variety of constituencies across this great Nation, and in so doing we bring to this Chamber particular regional beliefs and attitudes. But unlike the people that we represent, breast cancer is a problem that knows no geographic boundaries.

It does not stop at congressional districts or at State lines. All of us, regardless of where in the Nation we hail, need to acknowledge the toll that breast cancer is taking on women throughout the country and indeed across the world.

A brief look at some statistics should give us all reason to pause. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 35 and 54. One in eight women in the United States will develop breast cancer. Three-fourths of those women have no known risk factors, thus making accurate and adequate detection efforts a must for all women.

In Idaho we are fortunate enough to be well below the national age-adjusted average for incidences of breast cancer. Despite this, every year approximately 700 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in Idaho. In 1994 alone, 155 women lost their lives against this disease, against this killer.

There is, however, some light at the end of the tunnel. The Federal investment in breast cancer research prevention and treatment has increased dramatically in recent years. This has helped us move closer toward discovering what causes the disease.

We are also able to detect breast cancer sooner and thus improve survival rates for those stricken with the disease. When caught early, thanks to the research to date, the prognosis for recovery is very positive. Increased education and mammography screenings are just two of the things that we can do to make that survival rate even higher in the future.

I would like to acknowledge those who are working so diligently to make the National Race for the Cure a success. Those who are publicizing the event, those who are registering participants, and those who will take part by either running in the race or by providing support and services to the runners.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my wife Patricia for her efforts in building Team Idaho's role in the Race for the Cure. Patricia and I have been blessed in that our families have not had to face breast cancer. But my wife lost both of her parents to various forms of cancer, including her mother when Patricia was only 6 months old. Because of this, my wife Patricia has committed herself to doing what she can to see that other children will not face the loss of a mother at such a tender age.

As we get closer to the actual date of the race, I encourage all Senate offices to do their part to help this tremendous cause. Capitol Hill registrations will be taking place for the next 2 days. The registration fees and donations will play a significant role in our work against breast cancer. At the same time, the heightened awareness about breast cancer generated by the Race for the Cure will hopefully encourage earlier detection and treatment.

On Saturday, June 15, Team Idaho will be there to do its part to fight

breast cancer. My wife Patricia, our daughter Heather, son Jeff, numerous dear friends, and great staff will be there as Team Idaho joins with so many other participants in our efforts in this Race for the Cure to find the ultimate cure for breast cancer.

With that, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATIONAL RACE FOR THE CURE

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, first, let me thank all my colleagues that have been on the floor this morning making statements relating to the Race for the Cure and the effort that is being made in that interest in eradication of breast cancer. I also thank the Chair today for his work this morning and his support. We are all very grateful.

Mr. President, as many may know, last year a loyal and trusted member of my State, Martha Maloney, passed away after a long battle with cancer. Martha had been with my office for 18 years, so you will understand when I say she was like part of the family to me. Over the years, I had the privilege to see her develop her legislative skills, having a hand in numerous historic legislative achievements and working on airport projects all across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Martha's bravery in fighting breast cancer inspired a 200-member team to participate in last year's National Race for the Cure on behalf of breast cancer. They ran and walked the 5K's because they were "doing it for Martha." She was able to be there. She was able to see their effort and was very pleased.

Now, Mr. President, this year's race, to be held on June 15, will be dedicated in her honor. That is why I stand here today. Martha had long been a strong supporter of breast cancer research, and proceeds from the National Race for the Cure will go to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the Nation's largest private funder of breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment.

Over 26,000 participants and sponsors in last year's event raised over \$650,000 that went to local hospitals and health care organizations. Preliminary figures show this year's run will double, if not triple, that amount. Already, \$1.4 million has been collected or pledged. I, like many with me in this Chamber today, think this is very significant. For that reason, we introduced a resolution designating June 15, 1996, as "National Race for the Cure Day."

With over 35,000 runners, walkers, even in-line skaters expected, this year's race will be a resounding success. Many people will contribute to

the success of the National Race for the Cure. I would be remiss if I did not tip my hat to the U.S. Postal Service for its cooperation in releasing 100 million breast cancer stamps nationwide on June 15. The pink ribbon on the new stamp, and the cheers of all those who line the Race for the Cure course, will not only pay tribute to the many who silently suffered in the past, but also serve as a promise to stand firmly committed to those battling the disease today and to commend all of our resources so there might be no casualties in the future.

Along with the breast cancer stamp, the Postal Service will launch a nationwide effort to make post offices in every community centers of information and understanding about this disease. Brochures and videotapes explaining the importance of self-examination and annual mammograms will be on hand in every post office across this great land. Postal employees will be provided with facts about breast cancer they can share nationwide.

I also would be remiss if I did not point out that the Commonwealth will host its first Race for the Cure on October 26. Mr. President, 1,000 Kentuckians are expected to make that run, joining 340,000 participants in 64 other cities across the country.

Mr. President, I attended the State convention of the postmasters in Kentucky just this past Monday. They have an individual that is in charge of the overall operation. I think this is true in most States. Hopefully, there will be more than just one race in Kentucky. We are hoping for 35 to 40. If other States will do similar events, I can almost feel a tidal wave coming in the amount of money that can be put into research and hopefully expedite the day that the answer to this devastating cancer can be found.

I want to encourage my colleagues and their staff to be one of those walkers or runners to support this worthy cause in any way they can. There is a mother or a daughter or sister who will be very thankful you did.

NATIONAL RACE FOR THE CURE DAY

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of Senate Resolution 257, designating June 15, 1996, as "National Race for the Cure Day," and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 257) to designate June 15, 1996, as "National Race for the Cure Day."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I join my distinguished colleagues in urging all of our colleagues, their staff, families, and friends, to join the thousands of individuals who will participate in this year's Race for the Cure. In years past, my wife and I have eagerly joined the throngs of people of all ages who run or walk, are pushed in strollers or push themselves in wheelchairs, who share one common goal: helping to raise money so that a cure can be found for the disease that has taken the lives of nearly 1 million of our sisters, daughters, wives, and mothers during the past 35 years. This has been one of the most important events in which we have participated over the years.

Since 1992, I have fought for increased funding for breast cancer because as lawmakers, it is our responsibility to provide the tools researchers need to find a cure. Many of us find ourselves fighting this insidious disease in our daily jobs, as lawmakers, scientists, researchers, doctors, and advocates. But as a husband, father, and friend, this race has been another way for me to show my support of the urgent need to stop the spread of breast cancer, of the courageous women who fought this disease and won, and finally, to honor the strong women who were simply unable to overcome the power of this disease.

I hope that everyone will heed the messages presented on the floor of the Senate and participate in this important event.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am proud to be here again this year, joining my colleagues in the Senate to talk about the National Race for the Cure. This important event underscores the critical need to raise awareness about breast cancer, and the need to support research and education about this frightening disease.

We have heard the numbers and seen the statistics. Each year breast cancer strikes 184,000 women, and kills an estimated 45,000. Far too many have died from this disease, and the list includes many of my own friends and relatives. We all can agree that more must be done to educate women about the risks, prevention, and treatment of breast cancer. I can tell you that, as a woman, the mixed messages we receive are frustrating and dangerous.

We hear conflicting advice about when to have a mammogram—one year it's at age 40 then next it's at age 50—we need consistent, accurate information or else women will continue to die. Studies show that early detection and proper treatment could save the lives of 9 out of 10 women with breast cancer—that's 90 percent, Mr. President. These numbers are too serious to ignore.

We must do all we can to encourage education and awareness about how we can protect ourselves and our daughters from the tragedy of breast cancer. For this reason, the Race for the Cure is so very important; the D.C. race is