

[Mr. SIMON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1632, a bill to prohibit persons convicted of a crime involving domestic violence from owning or possessing firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1641

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1641, a bill to repeal the consent of Congress to the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, and for other purposes.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to provide that assistance shall be available under the noninsured crop assistance program for native pasture for livestock, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF NORTHERN TELECOM FOR RECEIVING THE CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARD

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a distinguished corporate citizen of my home State of Texas. As you may know, Northern Telecom [Nortel], a telecommunications equipment manufacturer based in Richardson, TX, recently received the first annual Corporate Citizenship Award from the Committee on Economic Development [CED].

The CED is an independent, non-partisan educational research organization of 250 top business, leaders, economists, and university presidents. CED represents no single industry or special interest group, nor does it lobby. For more than 50 years, CED's recommendations have played a major, often decisive, role in critical policy areas such as American competitiveness, government and business management, energy security, education, and job creation. The CED's Corporate Citizenship Award was created to salute those companies that have demonstrated both an active involvement in the policy dialog and a carefully considered commitment to the communities in which they operate and society at large.

Nortel received the award in recognition of the principles of corporate and civic responsibility that have guided the company throughout its 100-year history. The award cited Nortel's investment in research and development, the training and education of its workers, the quality of its management, as well as the company's strong and ongoing commitment to education, the preservation of the arts and culture, and community service.

With over 5,000 employees, Nortel is a global telecommunications leader. It is with much pride, Mr. President, that I urge my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Nortel family on this much-deserved distinction.●

1997 BUDGET RESOLUTION VOTES

• Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their support of the Kerry-Simpson-Nunn-Brown-Robb long-term entitlements amendment. My colleagues and I were a mere 14 votes away from passing legislation to begin the process of changing our entitlement laws. The support for this type of long-term reform is unprecedented, due in no small measure to our persistence on this matter.

I am particularly gratified because the reforms we advocated did not simply tinker around the edges of our budgetary dilemmas. Our adjustment to the Consumer Price Index would have saved the country \$126 billion over 7 years; the phasing in of the Medicare eligibility age to 70 would eventually, by 2030, in 1 year alone save \$41.1 billion in 1996 dollars; and our provision would have given more than 120 million working Americans the chance to start accumulating their own wealth through personal investment plans.

Mr. President, the fiscal imbalance of entitlements versus discretionary spending threatens our implicit intergenerational compact to leave a prosperous and growing economy to the next generation of Americans. The great demographic shift that will occur over the next 20 or 30 years—when the baby boom generation reaches retirement age—will largely shape our Nation's future. Accordingly, these changes must be met with new assumptions, different rules, and a fresh perspective.

That is what my colleagues and I offered. With growing support from both sides of the aisle and increased public awareness, perhaps soon we will get the votes we need to pass long-term entitlement reform. So, I am encouraged.

Accordingly, I would also like to briefly comment on other amendments offered to the budget resolution which I chose to vote against.

Several amendments were offered to the Republican budget resolution to restore funding to education, Medicaid, and the environment. While I agreed that the spending cuts to these programs in the budget resolution, particularly education, were severe and counterproductive—I could not vote for the add back amendments as they were written. In order to balance the budget and according to budget rules, amendments which add money back to programs in the budget resolution must be offset by cuts in other areas of Government spending. Each of the add back amendments I voted against used unspecified cuts to corporate welfare to pay for them. I realize that this might look like a good idea to the average citizen—cuts to corporations to fund education—but it's not always that simple.

"Corporate welfare" can be a very loosely defined and overused term. The reality is that most of us support—and more importantly benefit from—something that someone could call corporate welfare. The home mortgage deduction is a prime example. Some peo-

ple would say it qualifies as corporate welfare for the real estate industry. However, if Congress ended the program today, we would hear the furious cry of the people claiming that we had increased their taxes. The self-employed health insurance deduction is another example. So is the research and development tax credit—and the list goes on. These obviously were not the programs my colleagues had in mind. But I felt I needed a better sense of what they did have in mind before I joined them in support of these amendments.

Please do not misunderstand, I believe there are many places where Government can cut back on spending—including unfair tax breaks for corporations. But we cannot use cuts to corporate welfare as a panacea to cure all our budget ills. I believe we must examine each program for its merits before deciding to eliminate it. Had the add-back amendments in the budget resolution been more specific on which items were to be used as offsets, my votes may have been cast quite differently.

Moreover, as I mentioned earlier, the most responsible way to solve our budget problems is not to tinker on the edges, cutting slices from corporate welfare or discretionary spending. We must address the unsustainable growth of entitlement spending if we want to bring our budget into long-term balance. The support for our long-term entitlement amendment was an important first step to getting us there.●

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this week is Small Business Week, during which we honor and express our appreciation for the men and women who, by dint of hard work and risktaking, help keep the American economy going strong and create jobs for millions of their fellow citizens.

The life of a small business owner is not easy: Long hours, uncertain finances, competition, the very real chance of failure. Add to these burdens Federal taxes and regulations, and you have a rough road indeed. Many small business people will tell you that the Federal tax and regulatory burden is an obstacle to growth, and that the Federal Government's excessive interference poses a threat not only to their growth, but in some cases to their very survival. It's time the Government got off the backs of small businesses, and stopped throwing obstacles in the way of their success.

Because small businesses are so vital to our economy, and because so many American workers benefit from employment in small businesses, Congress is working to relieve some of the tax and regulatory burdens on small business owners so that they may be free to grow, create jobs, and contribute even more to the economy.

We've done quite a bit, passing—and making law—15 bills that included measures endorsed by last year's White House Conference on Small Business. Unfortunately, eight bills that contained important small business relief have been vetoed by President Clinton.

Yes, that's right—eight bills that included recommendations from the White House Conference on Small Business were vetoed by the current occupant of the White House, President Clinton. Those eight measures, which would have been of tremendous help to small business men and women were: An estate tax reduction, health care reform, pension reform, legal reform, a health deduction for the self-employed, an expensing provision, broad-based capital gains reform, and small business investment via capital gains reform. Last year, at the conference, the President expressed strong support for these measures and led us to believe that he wanted to relieve some of the burdens on our Nation's entrepreneurs.

Well, as we know from past experience, you can't always rely on what the President says he's going to do. I certainly hope this Small Business Week will jog his memory as to the promises he made last year, and that he will work with Congress as we continue in our efforts to ease the burdens on small businesses.●

CONGRATULATING WEST PHILADELPHIA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, today I call attention to a very special honor bestowed upon the West Philadelphia Catholic High School of Philadelphia, PA. West Philadelphia Catholic High School is among 266 secondary schools to be selected as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. The U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Program nationally recognizes public and private schools that are effective in meeting local, State, and national goals and in educating their students.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate West Philadelphia Catholic High School on this distinguished achievement. I am also proud to say that the West Philadelphia Catholic High School is a two-time winner of this prestigious honor and is the only Archdiocesan school to have received this award. As the U.S. Department of Education notes, these Blue Ribbon Schools are not only centers of educational excellence in their communities, but are often visited by educators from across the country who study their success.

The West Philadelphia Catholic High School is a Blue Ribbon Award winner because of the hard work of its students, the continued support of parents and graduates, and the dedication of its faculty and administration. This hard work and dedication to excellence can also be seen in the high number of graduating students who pursue higher education.

Again Mr. President, the Blue Ribbon Award is an honor to the students, faculty, and administration of the West Philadelphia Catholic High School as well as the city of Philadelphia. At this time I would like to extend my best wishes to West Philadelphia Catholic High School and congratulate this academic community on a job well done.●

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF MONTAUK POINT LIGHTHOUSE

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, on the seventh day of June, 1796, the founding block of sandstone was placed at the base of the Montauk Point Lighthouse on the eastern tip of Long Island. Two hundred years of Atlantic breakers have worn away more than half of the land that once separated the great black and white striped tower from the ocean; however, this steady beacon continues to welcome seafarers from near and far and guides them around the point, safely to shore.

On April 12, 1792, President George Washington signed into law the congressional authorization for the construction of the Montauk Point Lighthouse. On March 2, 1793, a sum of \$20,000 was appropriated for the project. Unbiased in its service to the vessels of the sea, the lighthouse was the first to be constructed in New York State at full Federal expense, and it remains a shining beacon of the best of what we can do as a nation.

From the top of the lighthouse tower, one can see Long Island, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Block Island. This range of sight proved beneficial during World War II, when spotters from the tower would coordinate the 16" cannons located in the battery at Fort Hero—500 meters to the west. Throughout the war, the lighthouse was operated by the Army Signal Corps and established itself as a crucial part of the eastern coastal defensive shield.

Though its construction was significantly altered only once, the lighthouse has changed with the times. Originally it burned whale oil, housed a lightkeeper, and could be seen from but a few miles from its source. Today the lighthouse runs on an automated system, and can be seen at a distance of 19 nautical miles. In addition, it forms part of a satellite-based global positioning system.

This year the Montauk Point Lighthouse Museum will welcome its 1 millionth visitor by land. On behalf of those who pass both by land and by sea, I would like to thank the Montauk Historical Society and the Coast Guard for their dutiful service to the light, and I am delighted to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Montauk Lighthouse.●

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3120

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I inquire of the Chair if H.R. 3120 has arrived from the House of Representatives?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, it has.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3120) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to witness retaliation, witness tampering and jury tampering.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading, and I object on behalf of the Democratic leadership. I understand they have some concerns with it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Will the bill remain at the desk to be read a second time following the next adjournment of the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

Mr. LOTT. Before I go to the closing script, I want to comment briefly on what I understand is happening with the health insurance reform package. I understand that discussions are continuing. I have the impression that very good progress is being made. I am hopeful, as I know the distinguished majority leader is, that agreement can be reached and that this legislation can be taken up early next week.

Yet I was amused to hear the Senator from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY, a few moments ago, complaining loudly, vociferously about how not enough was being done. Actually, what he is complaining about is the way it is being done to come to an agreement. It was amusing to me because he was complaining about how there were meetings going on and they were not being informed or kept advised, yet he immediately started talking about exactly what is being discussed. He knows every detail. I know he is involved and staff is involved.

Senator KASSEBAUM, the Senator from Kansas, who coauthored this legislation with the Senator from Massachusetts, is keeping him informed. Really, he protests too much. He says they are not involved, yet he knows every detail immediately. When we get close to an agreement he does not like, he runs to the floor and says, "My goodness." Then he continues to complain that members of the minority are not involved in discussions. Yet every time we have tried to get conferees appointed, the Democrats have objected. I tried it yesterday. That way Senator KENNEDY, Senator PELL, Senator MOYNIHAN, Senator BIDEN or others would be involved, sitting down in a room discussing the solution. The reason they are not directly, formally involved is because Senator KENNEDY and other Democrats have objected to the appointment of conferees.

We are never going to bring this to a conclusion if we cannot get over the hurdle of at least appointing conferees.