

ALABAMA "TEACHER OF THE YEAR"

• Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Alabama's most outstanding teachers. Harriet Tyler, a sixth-grade teacher at Springwood School in Lanett, AL, was recently selected as Teacher of the Year for the State of Alabama by the Alabama Independent School Association.

Harriet Tyler—a native of Decatur, AL, and a graduate of Butler High School—has influenced the lives of countless elementary students since she graduated from Auburn University in 1965. As a sixth-grade teacher, she has had the unenviable task of preparing the senior members of the playground for the traumatic transition to junior high school. Sometimes we think our work here in the Senate is difficult, but I don't think that it compares to the difficult job that Harriet Tyler has done year after year for over 30 years. Her commitment to her job, her school, and most importantly, to her students is truly inspiring.

Mr. President, teachers like Harriet Tyler represent the key to America's future. As our children face the challenges of the 21st century, it is dedicated educators like Harriet Tyler who accept the challenge of turning the young people of today into the leaders of tomorrow.●

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. MARC A. CISNEROS

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great patriot, statesman, and soldier from the Lone Star State of Texas, Lt. Gen. Marc A. Cisneros. General Cisneros is retiring after a distinguished 35-year military career in the U.S. Army.

Marc Cisneros entered the military in 1961 after graduating as an ROTC distinguished military cadet from St. Mary's University, in San Antonio, TX. He was commissioned a 2d Lt. in the field artillery and has faithfully and selflessly served his country in a wide array of demanding command and staff assignments within the continental United States and overseas. Most notable was his assignment as Commanding General, U.S. Army South and Joint Task Force, Panama, during Operation Just Cause. During Operation Just Cause, General Cisneros played a significant role in the combat operations in Panama and helped negotiate the capture and surrender of Panamanian General Noriega. Besides this action, General Cisneros served two combat tours in Vietnam.

This officer has risen through the ranks emphasizing military readiness and displaying a genuine compassion for soldiers and their families. Marc Cisneros has been a caring leader committed to the values and ideals that have made this country and its military so great.

His final assignment was as Commanding General, 5th U.S. Army, Fort

Sam Houston, TX. In this most important position, Marc Cisneros provided vision, enforced standards of excellence, and committed himself to helping sustain the readiness of the Nation's reserve component forces.

Mr. President, our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Lt. Gen. Marc A. Cisneros, and I am honored to recognize him today. With our deepest appreciation, the United States of America says thank you. I wish him, and his wife Eddy and their children, continued success and happiness in all future endeavors.●

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUYANA

• Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the nation of Guyana as it celebrates its 30th year as a sovereign nation, and to pay tribute to the citizens of this nation whose dedication to their country enabled Guyana to develop from a small colony to an independent nation.

Guyana was a Dutch colony from 1621 until it eventually came under the influence of the British who acquired formal possession in 1814. While still under British control, Guyana obtained its first constitution in 1928, although universal franchise was not recognized until much later in 1953. From 1957 until 1966 the People's Progressive Party was elected and controlled Guyana under a system of internal self rule.

In 1965, the British Guiana Independence Conference met in London to the authorize a new constitution. When ratified on May 26, 1966, the new constitution marked the beginning of the independent nation of Guyana.

Throughout its years as both a Dutch and British colony, Guyana became home to workers from many different lands. With a population of 739,553, Guyana is comprised primarily of East Indians and people of African descent. Guyana is also home to native South Americans as well as citizens of Chinese and European heritage.

Guyana was one of the founding members of the Caribbean Free Trade Area [CARIFTA] which was established in 1968. Guyana has been called the bread basket of the Caribbean because it is blessed with many natural resources and the potential for a strong economy. Guyana is dually blessed with both natural resources and a vibrant and diverse people. These attributes ensure that in the years to come this young country will grow into a leader in its part of the world.

Today, I rise to offer my congratulations to Guyana on the anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. The future of Guyana has never looked brighter. New Jersey's multi-cultural heritage has benefited from citizens from Guyana. I congratulate its citizens on their perseverance and potential, and extend my best wishes for continued success as an independent nation.●

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SALINE, MI AND THE TOWN OF BRECON, WALES AS SISTER CITIES

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the successful partnership of the city of Saline, MI, and the town of Brecon, Wales in the Sister Cities Program.

Thirty-years ago next month, under the People-to-People Program established by President Eisenhower, a bond was forged between these two communities. In the words of Saline Mayor Patrick J. Little, "We have become one community separated by a large body of water. Over two generations have had the pleasure of learning about each other's culture."

To celebrate this occasion, next month approximately 50 members of the Brecon community will visit Saline, the highlight of which will be the first ever Celtic Festival on July 6. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors from Brecon, and congratulate the citizens of both cities for their three decades of cooperation and friendship.●

A CASE AGAINST INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I supported the creation of the office of independent counsel and have voted for its reauthorization.

I am now convinced that is the wrong way to solve this particular problem.

My judgment is that we should look at the office of Attorney General with great care when a nomination is made. And if the nominee is too close, in any way, to the President, that nomination should be rejected.

And if the nominee has been active in political life beyond the normal type of engagement, that should be weighed. Such a person should not automatically be rejected, but there should be ample evidence that the person will serve with honor.

An ideal type of arrangement was when Ed Levi was chosen as Attorney General by President Gerald Ford. No one for a moment thought that the man who left as president of the University of Chicago to become Attorney General could be politically manipulated by the President, even if the President wanted to do that.

My impression is that Janet Reno is made of the same stuff and that her appointment was a good appointment.

When I was sounded out about John F. Kennedy appointing Bobby Kennedy as Attorney General I indicated to Bob Wallace, the Kennedy staff person who asked me about it, that I thought it was a mistake because the Attorney General should not be too close to the President. As it turned out, Bobby Kennedy did a good job as Attorney General, but as a precedent it was not good.

In the same way, Ed Meese was much too close personally and politically to Ronald Reagan to serve the Nation as effectively as he might have as Attorney General.

The Chicago Tribune had an editorial recently titled, "A Case Against Independent Counsel."

Their conclusion is that we should simply do away with the law.

I reluctantly believe their conclusion is correct.

But it will be correct only to the extent that we assure the American public that the Attorney General is of an independent bent. It may even be that we should appoint an Attorney General for a period of 10 years, subject to removal from office under conditions that are carefully spelled out in the law prior to ending that 10-year period.

But the Chicago Tribune editorial contains words that we should reflect on.

Mr. President, I ask that the article from the Chicago Tribune be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

A CASE AGAINST INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Remember Sam Pierce?

That's OK. Ronald Reagan didn't remember him either, even when Pierce was serving in his cabinet as secretary of Housing and Urban Development. (Reagan once greeted him in a receiving line as "Mr. Mayor").

Pierce and Reagan have been gone from Washington for almost eight years, but the effects of their presence continue to be felt. In Pierce's case, they are felt less in policy than in the work of an independent counsel, or special prosecutor, who is said to be tidying up loose ends in a probe of abuses and mismanagement in Pierce's agency during the Reagan years.

As of the end of March, this investigation had resulted in 17 convictions of former high-level officials and the associates to whom they steered contracts or directed favors. The most prominent of those convicted was James Watt, the blunt former secretary of the Interior in the Reagan administration, who in January pleaded guilty to attempting to mislead the grand jury in the HUD investigation. He was sentenced to five years of probation, 500 hours of community service and a \$5,000 fine.

To obtain these results, the independent counsel has run up a tab of almost \$21 million—an average of \$1.2 million per conviction. That's offset somewhat by the \$2 million in fines and \$10 million in recovered HUD funds. But even so, the pursuit of justice in the HUD case has been an extremely costly affair.

The HUD probe is not even the most expensive by an independent counsel. Lawrence Walsh's Iran-contra investigation cost more than \$40 million. Kenneth Starr's Whitewater probe bids fair to become the most expensive ever—by one estimate it already has cost \$25 million. Altogether, special counsels have cost the taxpayers \$100 million over the last 10 years.

This mounting expense, for results whose value more and more members of Congress consider dubious at best, has inspired a questioning of the independent counsel law that arguments from principle could not.

The logic behind the law (formally, the Ethics in Government Act) is simple and seems unassailable: When high-level officials in an administration are accused of serious breaches of the public trust, it takes an independent outsider to conduct a credible investigation. There is a built-in conflict of interest that makes it impossible for the normal Justice Department processes to work. Without a law, the president cannot be counted on to permit an independent investigation of his administration.

The only problem with this logic is that in the long scope of U.S. history, it has not been shown to be true. Most Justice Department officials and prosecutors behave honorably. In the one great historical instance in which the Justice Department's integrity was in serious question—Watergate—overwhelming political pressure forced President Richard Nixon to yield and accept an independent counsel.

An independent counsel law is a source of permanent temptation to political mischief. The Democrats in Congress used it to bludgeon the Reagan and Bush administrations. Now—after the Democrats insisted on renewing the law in Bill Clinton's first year in office—the Republicans are using it to bludgeon the Clinton administration. No fewer than four independent counsels are at work investigating issues from Whitewater to whether Henry Cisneros lied to the FBI about how much money he gave his former mistress.

As the figures on the HUD investigation suggest, independent counsels operate with none of the budget constraints that fetter ordinary prosecutors. And they can pursue their quarry indefinitely, meaning that individuals can remain under threat of prosecution for years, with devastating effects on their families, fortunes, careers and psyches. That's not fair.

Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) and Rep. Jay Dickey (R-Ark.) each have proposed legislation to reduce the powers of independent counsels and make them more accountable to Congress.

Better that they should simply do away with the law. As the Nixon case demonstrates, when a president's behavior threatens the very constitutional order, the public will demand an independent counsel. Absent such an outrage, it's best to let normal legal processes work. •

TRIBUTE TO COOPER TOOLS/ NICHOLSON FILE

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, the National Association of State Directors of Vocational Technical Education Consortium recently recognized Cooper Tools/Nicholson File of Cullman, AL, for their commitment to vocational education. I, too, would like to commend Cooper Tools/Nicholson File for their exemplary contributions to the community of Cullman, AL, in regards to vocational training. If I may, Mr. President, I would like to briefly outline some of the innovative projects Cooper Tools/Nicholson File has initiated.

In 1985, Nicholson File helped the Cullman County Area Vocational Center take a giant leap toward educational excellence by adopting the school as its partner. As the first step, the company donated to the school hand tools and power equipment worth more than \$254,000.

In addition, Nicholson File began a scholarship program for vocational students to attend Wallace State Community College. To date, 24 students have attended the college, using gifts totaling \$48,000.

In 1986, Cooper Tools initiated Project PACE—Partnership To Aid Career Education. Project PACE gave selected vocational schools an unrestricted grant of \$10,000 each for teacher development and recognition, stu-

dent incentives and recognition, curriculum improvement or new technology, or community outreach. A national panel chose three schools to receive additional PACEsetter Awards totaling \$50,000. Cullman County Area Vocational Center won an additional grant of \$25,000 for a student recognition/scholarship program. In 1995, the school won a \$20,000 award for curriculum improvement.

ComSAVE, another collaborative venture between the school and Nicholson File was instrumental in the implementation of the tech prep initiative in Cullman County. Other efforts have led to new programs, including CAD and Computer Electronics.

As you can see, Mr. President, Cooper Tools/Nicholson File has taken a very proactive approach in regards to vocational education. Cooper Tools/Nicholson File is setting a standard which I hope others will emulate.

THE RUSH TO GULP U.S. RADIO STATIONS

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, some of my colleagues may remember that when the new telecommunications law was before the Senate, I offered an amendment to limit the expansion of radio station ownership by any one corporation or any one individual.

That amendment was tabled by a vote of 64 to 34.

The other day I read an article by Prof. Jerry Landay, former broadcast journalist, who now teaches at the University of Illinois. The article appeared in the Christian Science Monitor under the title, "The Rush To Gulp U.S. Radio Stations."

I ended up voting against the bill even though I know there were some good things in it.

But diversity in ownership is good for all the media. I don't like the concentration of ownership that is taking place in newspapers, but that is not a federally regulated entity.

Radio stations and television stations are federally regulated, and we have every right to demand diversity of ownership and not monopolistic or oligarchical practices.

I ask that the Jerry Landay article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Christian Science Monitor, May 7, 1996]

THE RUSH TO GULP US RADIO STATIONS

(By Jerry M. Landay)

The surface glamour faded long ago from radio. But Americans keep as many as five or six sets in the house and use them regularly. Don Imus, Rush Limbaugh, and Garrison Keillor remind us that television hasn't stripped all the glory from the medium or its revenues—Totaling \$11.5 billion in 1995.

The radio stations that CBS owns—39 of them—grossed a half-billion dollars last year. Like the printing presses in the Federal Mint, commercial radio stations in America churn out cash in prodigious amounts. Returns of 40 to 50 percent yearly are not uncommon.

Multibillion-dollar mergers and acquisitions in the telephone and television-based