

SMITH, Anna Elizabeth Smoot, and Laura Camille Wilson from the Wilder-ness Road Girl Scout Council.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

Mr. President, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these outstanding young ladies. They deserve recognition for their contributions to their community and their country and I wish them continued success in the years ahead.●

FILEGATE WAS BAD ENOUGH— NOW THIS?

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, the FBI and the Office of Personnel Management are making a terrible move that is not in the national interest, that may save a few dollars temporarily, but will cost us in the long run. They are privatizing many of our background checks.

Not only is this questionable from a security point of view, it will result in a massive invasion of privacy.

Those of us in public life are on a big "privatizing" kick. The reason is rarely to save money. The main reason is so that people who are in executive positions can go out and say "When I took office, there were so many Federal employees or State employees or city employees, but now there are fewer." The decrease makes it appear that a great job is being done.

The reality is while that kind of talk goes on, the budgets tend to go up.

Frequently, those who are adversely affected by privatization are people at the very bottom of the economic ladder.

For example, we have privatized custodial services at some of the Federal buildings in Chicago. The already low wages for these people are being depressed more, and they lose the benefits of retirement pay and other things.

Privatizing background checks for those who either are coming into government or who may be given greater responsibilities is simply foolish.

Prof. Stephen Gillers of the New York University School of Law had an op-ed piece in the New York Times about this that should be creating some concerns among Federal officials, as well as people at the State and local level.

I ask that the New York Times op-ed be printed in the RECORD.

The op-ed follows:

FILEGATE WAS BAD ENOUGH. NOW THIS?

(By Stephen Gillers)

The F.B.I. called again last month. It phones several times a year to ask me about former students who are seeking sensitive Government jobs. I could verify that indeed it was the Federal Bureau of Investigation calling. The voice-mail message had the bureau's telephone exchange, and the agent talked the way agents do, unfailingly polite and right to the point.

I answered all his questions. I trusted the confidentiality of my answers, even though Louis J. Freeh, the F.B.I. director, had recently acknowledged that the White House had managed to "victimize" the bureau by getting its secret files on prominent Republicans and others. I figure that two "Filegates" in a generation is not something the bureau will permit.

It seems that my next call may come not from the F.B.I., or from the Office of Federal Investigations, which also checks out Government personnel. It may instead come from a private company, which under a Clinton Administration plan will conduct 40 percent of Government security clearances. And I may be questioned not by a G-Person (formerly G-Man), but by a private investigator whose employer submitted a winning bid. The decision to privatize this work, rash in the best of times, needs a close second look after Filegate.

Take quality. Privatizing will dilute it. The company will be free to accept other customers, including private ones. Can I be confident that what I say will not be shared with those customers? I'm not going to be as candid if my answers can find their way into private files.

What about subpoenas? I doubt the courts will protect private records as jealously as they do F.B.I. files. And whom will I be talking to? I have a pretty good idea of what's required to become a Government investigator, the quality of supervision, and the length of time people hold that job. But who will the private investigators be, who will check their work, and where will they be working tomorrow?

The need to earn a profit will also compromise quality. Under the plan, a private company owned by former Government employees will have an exclusive contract for three years. Then the work will be put up for bid. Whether payment is a fixed sum for all investigations, or like piecework, a flat fee per investigation, profitability will encourage companies to do the minimum and not pursue the last elusive detail.

Abuse will also be easier. The F.B.I. has many ways to protect itself. Its director cannot easily be fired, it enjoys broad public support, and it has excellent media contacts. Yet it did not stand up to a White House that, by accident or design, easily obtained files for no lawful reason. Will a private company, dependent on Government officials for renewal of a lucrative contract, be able to challenge an improper request? Don't count on it.

The only defense offered for this misguided plan is that it may save \$25 million yearly. But even that is unsure. While the General Accounting Office cautiously concluded that "privatization would be likely to produce a net savings to the Government in the long term," it added that "any new business faces many uncertainties that affect profitability."

One hidden cost will be duplication of work. Certain law-enforcement records will be unavailable to private investigators. So Government personnel will have to complete the assignments, inevitably requiring them to retrace some steps. This time must be added in figuring the true cost.

In any event, the savings are not worth it. As one Federal investigator put it, this work is "inherently governmental." Some tasks should not be privatized because the value of having the Government do them is priceless. Enforcing the law and approving new drugs are two examples. Security investigations for public jobs are a third. No business, especially one with other customers, should be authorized to routinely collect sensitive information on American citizens in the name of the United States.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BOFINGER

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul Bofinger from Concord, NH, as he retires as president of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Paul ends a distinguished 35-year career with this organization, serving as its president for the last 23 years. This exceptionally hard-working man has long been recognized as one of the top conservationists in our State.

The last 35 years have seen a steady period of growth and awareness of conservation issues in New Hampshire, and Paul has played a large role in this development. In the last three and a half decades, New Hampshire became the first State to establish statewide control over septic systems, and the first to take steps toward preserving wetlands. Paul is justly proud of his record and the fact that the number of New Hampshire residents who are concerned about protecting the environment is increasing each year.

Paul is described by many as a master of negotiations. During the struggle over the Wilderness Protection Act, he negotiated a balanced agreement which set aside 77,000 acres as national forest land while preserving land for timber as well. He demonstrated understanding for both sides but always urged what was best for the land. Another of Paul's brilliant negotiations involved the construction of the Franconia Notch Parkway, a compromise between the preservation of forest lands and the construction of a four-lane interstate highway. Paul had a rare intuition for politics and policy and his heart was always in the right place when it came to protecting our State.

Paul's many projects, from the Trust for New Hampshire Lands and the Northern Forest Lands Council to the fight against acid rain and his support of current use legislation, have earned him numerous awards. Some of his more prestigious awards include: the John Aston Warner Medal for American Forests, the President's Conservation Achievement Award from the Nature Conservancy, and the Tudor Richards Award from the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

As Paul leaves the field of nature conservation, he will be sorely missed, but his memory and work will endure. It is he and others like him whom we should credit for preserving our beautiful New Hampshire wilderness for the next generation of Granite-staters. I thank Paul for his 35 years of service

and commend him for an extraordinary job. We will miss his strong voice on behalf of our State's forests and his devotion to protecting our natural environment.●

THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I wish to discuss the Defense authorization bill, which passed the Senate yesterday. The bill contains several provisions that I have strongly advocated and worked hard to advance.

First and foremost, the bill authorizes funds for three military construction projects in my home State of Delaware that will add to our military preparedness. The first of these is a C-5 aerial delivery facility at Dover Air Force Base that will allow the base to fulfill the strategic brigade airdrop mission, enhancing Dover's leading role in meeting our new military requirements in the post-cold war era. Second, \$12 million for new visiting officers quarters will ease a severe housing shortage at Dover and also allow for a much-needed transportation upgrade at the base. Third, an operations and training complex for the Air National Guard will improve readiness by replacing several outdated and dilapidated facilities at the Air Guard's headquarters at the New Castle County Airport. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for including these projects, which I had requested.

I am also pleased that the bill provides for the transfer of the last parcel of military-controlled land at Cap Henlopen to the Delaware State Park System, completing a long-standing project I began when I first arrived in the Senate.

In addition, the bill restores two important provisions that I fought hard to include in the antiterrorism act, but were removed by the conference committee. First, the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici amendment, of which I am an original cosponsor, gives authority to the Armed Forces to assist local law enforcement, should we ever face an emergency involving a chemical or biological weapon. The Armed Forces alone have the capacity and equipment to respond to such an incident. In addition, this amendment will improve our ability to interdict weapons of mass destruction before they reach American soil. It will help ensure the security of all Americans by expanding programs to safeguard nuclear material in the former Soviet Union.

The second antiterrorism provision is a Feinstein-Biden amendment to prohibit the distribution of bomb-making information on the Internet. The Senate had overwhelmingly approved this amendment to the antiterrorism bill, but it was not included in the final conference report.

I am pleased that these two crucial antiterrorism provisions are included in the Defense authorization bill.

Another important amendment to this bill calls for a study of the benefits and costs of enlarging the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to include the new democracies of Central Europe.

While I believe that the addition of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia may well strengthen our own security, that of our allies, and that of Europe as a whole, we must understand in detail what we are undertaking before asking these countries to shoulder the burdens of NATO membership. The mandated study will answer the relevant questions.

Despite these significant achievements, Mr. President, I cannot support a bill that is fiscally irresponsible. If we are serious about balancing the budget, no area of Government—including defense—should be immune to a critical review of spending.

Between 1981 and 1992, the annual Federal deficit quadrupled—from \$74 billion to \$290 billion. Since 1992, the deficit has been cut by more than half—the Congressional Budget Office now projects that the Federal deficit will be about \$140 billion this year, down from \$290 billion at the end of the Bush administration.

This marks the first time in modern budget history—since we demobilized at the end of WWII—that the deficit has gone down 4 years in a row.

The deficit is now less than 2 percent of our Nation's output—we have the best budget record of any of the advanced industrial economies. Today, Federal spending as a share of the economy is the lowest it has been since 1979.

This is a record that owes a lot to the hard choices we made in 1993 and to the discipline it has taken to stick with those decisions. We cannot—we must not—put this record in jeopardy. We certainly should not throw more money at the Pentagon than it says it needs.

For every dollar wasted on exotic weapons systems that the Department of Defense is not asking for, there is less for crime prevention, for the infrastructure that underpins our economy, and for education and research that will be the key to tomorrow's productivity growth.

We have to balance our priorities carefully and to use our scarce resources efficiently. The Defense budget should not become the new way to keep old habits alive.

The overwhelming majority of the money added to the President's Defense authorization request would go toward procurement and development of weapons systems that the Pentagon does not believe are necessary to ensure the security of the United States. In fact, \$3.8 billion of the additional money is for programs that are not even in the Pentagon's long-range plan to defend our country.

Mr. President, my distinguished colleagues argued for this unnecessary spending on the grounds that the readiness of our military was at stake. This

ignores the fact that American military readiness today is at an all-time high.

We cannot take an additional \$11.4 billion out of the pockets of the tax-paying American people to buy airplanes and ships we don't need. We cannot continue to borrow from our grandchildren's future to pay for additional weapons at a time we face no major military threat. In short, we cannot afford this bill.

Mr. President, I could not in good conscience vote to spend \$11.4 billion more than the military itself believes is necessary to defend our Nation. It is my hope that the conferees will work to bring down the spending in this bill to an acceptable and responsible level, so that at time, I can support the bill.●

THE PASSING OF ALEX MANOOGIAN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, it is with great personal sadness that I note the passing of Alex Manoogian, a highly respected community leader and businessman from Detroit, MI. Mr. Manoogian was revered as the most influential leader in the Armenian-American community in Detroit and throughout the United States.

Mr. Manoogian came to the United States from his native Armenia in the 1920's, and settled in Detroit shortly thereafter. He soon founded the Masco Corp., a small venture which by 1936 became the first company owned by an Armenian to be listed on the stock exchange. He married the former Marie Tatian, who passed away in 1992, and was the father of a daughter, Louise, and a son, Richard.

Mr. Manoogian was a member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union [AGBU] and the Knights of Vartan. By the 1940's he had been elected the national commander of the Knights and director on the central board and then president of the AGBU. In 1970, the AGBU voted him life president, and then in 1989 honorary life president, for his tremendous contributions.

Under Mr. Manoogian's leadership, the Knights of Vartan Brotherhood established an endowment fund through which it donated services to the church and other charitable, educational, and cultural organizations. Also under his leadership, the AGBU established the Alex and Marie Manoogian Cultural Foundation, which has supported the publication and translation of many scholarly and literary works, funded cultural activities and provided assistance to needy Armenian intellectuals and educators throughout the world.

Mr. Manoogian was a generous man who contributed to various hospitals, museums, libraries, universities, schools, and other charitable and cultural organizations in the United States and around the globe. He leaves us with many institutions throughout the world bearing his family name.

In recognition of his international philanthropy, Mr. Manoogian was