

Western Little League All-Stars were crowned the National Champions at this year's Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

Mr. President, I know we are dealing with important matters here. But this is an important matter also. This wonderful team of youngsters from our State first had to win the State championship. Then they went to the national championships in Williamsport where they defeated—can you believe it—California 5 to 1. Three days later in front of 17,000 fans and a national television audience they defeated the team that had previously defeated them, namely the heavily favored Panama City, FL, team which put them into the world championship game. That was against Chinese Taipei.

I think for anyone who follows the Little League baseball knows that the Chinese Taipei team was always an outstanding one and, indeed, they did win against the Cranston Western All-Stars.

This was truly an amazing accomplishment. When Cranston Western started down this road, it was just one of several thousand teams across the country vying for the right to play for the world championship. To get into the World Series, it had to win three mini-tournaments against the best teams in Rhode Island, and then in the Northeast, over the course of 2 months.

Listen to some of these last-minute heroics. It took a home run in the tenth inning just to advance beyond the district playoffs. Then they had to win three straight games, including two in a row over a previously undefeated South Kingstown team, to stave off elimination in the State tournament. And in the final game of the East Regionals, Cranston Western needed a game-saving, diving catch by their left fielder, and then a three-run homer in the bottom of the seventh, to overcome a tough Pennsylvania squad.

Once they got to Williamsport, the job only got tougher. History certainly was not on their side. Indeed, Cranston Western was only the third team from Rhode Island to make it to the Little League World Series, and the first to do so since 1980. And in neither of those two cases did a Rhode Island team win a single game at the national level. What's more, in the first game, they had to face California—a State that had produced 5 World Series champions and had been represented in the tournament a record 32 times.

But these courageous, young Rhode Islanders proved their mettle. They shook off any butterflies they might have had, and defeated the Californians by a 5 to 1 score. Three days later, in front of 17,000 fans and a national television audience, they avenged an earlier loss to heavily favored Panama City, FL. That win put them in the world championship game.

Unfortunately, Cranston Western came up short in the World Series final against Chinese Taipei. But that loss in no way diminished what these boys

from the city of Cranston accomplished. They were front page news in Rhode Island for a solid week. Nearly every television in the State—whether in private homes or restaurants—was tuned to the final game. And when they returned home they received a hero's welcome, complete with a police escort from the Connecticut border and a fireworks display in their hometown.

What did these boys learn from their experience this summer? I can think of three things.

First, they learned that you don't have to be the biggest, or the strongest, or even the most-talented to succeed in life. While those attributes are important, they're meaningless without heart, grit, and fierce determination. And Cranston Western led the pack in those three categories.

Second, they learned that practice really does make perfect. Throughout the summer, the team spent nearly every waking moment on the baseball diamond, whether it was at official practices or playing pick-up games. Moreover, at the beginning of their championship run, every player made a commitment to the team not to miss a single practice. And each one of them lived up to that commitment.

Third, and I believe most importantly, they learned to place a high value on teamwork. No single player could be counted on to carry the load alone. Each member of that team made a crucial contribution at one point or another. That's a critical lesson I hope these little leaguers will remember for the rest of their lives.

And Mr. President, as I'm sure they would tell you, these boys had a lot of help along the way. There was their very capable manager, Mike Varrato. He was the one who set the lineup, arranged the defense, and made sure the team was physically and mentally ready to play every day.

They had veteran coaches Nick Dinezza and Larry Lepore. These two men helped the pitchers with their location, threw batting practice, and hit hundreds, if not thousands, of ground balls to the infielders and fly balls to the outfielders. There's no doubt that on many occasions, the coaches went home more tired than the young ball-players.

And, of course, there were the parents. You've never seen a more loyal group. They scheduled family meals around games and practices. They gave up summer vacations at the beach to follow their sons from one venue to the next. During the games, they rang cowbells, and banged pots and pans, and did whatever it took to rally the troops. They cheered mightily when their boys won, and hugged them and reassured them the few times that they lost. And I'm sure they never hesitated to voice their opinions whenever the umpires made a bad call.

And so, I want to offer my heartiest congratulations to the members of the Cranston Western Little League team, and all who were associated with their

championship season. They stirred an enormous amount of pride in Rhode Island, and made for a very exciting August in our State.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the team roster be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CRANSTON WESTERN LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS—1996 LITTLE LEAGUE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Lucas Ashton; Jake Bazirgan; Brett Bell; Lew Colby; Evan Dizoglio; Chris Gallo; Matt Lovejoy; Michael Luke; Tom Michael; Jay Sparling; Peter Spinelli; Craig Stinson; Rick Stoddard; and Paul Tavarozzi.

NOTE

[In yesterday's RECORD beginning on page S9829, a colloquy between Senators CRAIG, BOND, and INHOFE appears with material omitted. The permanent RECORD has been corrected to reflect the following.]

PARTICULATES RULEMAKING

Mr. CRAIG. If I might ask the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations about the EPA review of the national ambient air quality standard for particulate matter. I understand that there are recent epidemiological studies that indicate a correlation between exposure to air polluted with particulates and adverse human health effects, and that EPA is studying this matter as a high priority.

Mr. BOND. I thank the Senator from Idaho for raising this important point. The EPA has indicated to our committee that it is highly concerned about the health effects of particulates. We have met the EPA's request for funding for this program, and included \$18.8 million. These funds are for health effects research, exposure research, improving monitoring technologies, modeling studies, and other key requirements.

Mr. CRAIG. I am pleased to learn that the committee has directed this level of funding to EPA for this important research. This comprehensive research program is very much needed. At present, there appears to be insufficient data available for the agency to decide what changes, if any, should be made to the current standard. There is no scientific consensus on whether it is necessary to change the current ambient air quality standards for particulate matter to protect human and environmental health. It has come to my attention that in a letter to EPA on June 13, 1996, EPA's own Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee concluded that "our understanding of the health effects of [particulates] is far from complete," and these scientific uncertainties prevented the committee from agreeing on the agency's suggested new particulate standards. In addition, the former chairman of this advisory committee who is now a consultant to the advisory committee, Roger McClellan,

wrote the current chairman in May to advise him that "the current staff document does not provide a scientifically adequate basis for making regulatory decisions for setting of National Ambient Air Quality Standards and related control of particulate matter as specified in the Clean Air Act." Finally, in a peer-reviewed article just published in the *Journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*, scientists John Gamble and Jeffery Lewis conclude that the recent epidemiology studies that show statistically significant acute health effects of particulate air pollution do not meet the criteria for causality. They suggest that the weak statistical correlations of increased mortality are as likely due to confounding by weather, copollutants, or exposure misclassification as they are by ambient particulate matter.

As the chairman is aware, EPA is under a Federal court order to make a final decision on whether to revise the current clean air rule regarding particulate matter. Under the court order, EPA must make a proposed decision on or before November 29, 1996, and a final decision on or before June 28, 1997. Can the Chairman inform me whether the court order allows the agency to decide not to revise the particular standard until there is sufficient scientific basis for doing so?

Mr. BOND. It is my understanding that the court order only requires the agency to make a final decision on whether to revise the current ambient air standard for particulates, but the order does not require the agency to promulgate a new standard.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. If I might interject, the fact that EPA has found several studies that indicate a correlation between loading of particulates in the air and premature mortality is important. This suggested link to human health problems needs to be promptly and thoroughly investigated. My objective is to provide protection of public health and the environment by designing control strategies that reduce harmful particulates and other pollutants from the air people breathe. However, I am concerned that EPA may be rushed to judgment by the Federal courts before real science has been developed to inform the agency about which particulates, in which geographic locations, and in which concentrations are harming people and the environment. There are many questions that need to be answered about particulate matter, as EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, referred to as "CASAC," made clear in its June 13, 1996, letter to EPA—to which the Senator from Idaho just referred. For example, we do not know the mechanisms by which particulates might affect public health. Since 1988, particulate matter concentrations have declined by more than 20 percent, with substantial future declines in particulates expected to result from compliance with existing clean air standards. Moving for-

ward with the targeted research program recommended by the CASAC is essential to understand the health problems associated with particulates. That better understanding of the health effects caused by particulates is needed before we can design an effective control strategy. I would note for my colleagues that this EPA advisory committee is meeting again in early September to design this particulate research program.

Mr. CRAIG. If the Senator would yield, I would ask the chairman that if EPA is only going to begin to implement the CASAC research program in October of this year, how can it be expected to issue a proposed rule on November 29, as required under the court order?

Mr. INHOFE. If I might add an additional comment to address the Senator from Idaho's question, I want to assure my colleagues that I share their concern that there is evidence of potential harm to Americans from exposure to fine particles. I want to know what kinds of particulates cause health problems. And I want to know where those particulates are and what are the best ways to reduce them.

I would note for the Senator from Idaho that the chairman of the subcommittee stated earlier the court order does not require the EPA to propose a change in the particulate standard. The EPA can satisfy its obligations by proposing not to change the particulate standard until there is a better understanding about which particulates cause health effects, and where those particulates are prevalent in unhealthful levels. I would like to add that the Clinton Administration's Executive Order or Regulatory Review states the Administration's own regulatory philosophy as requiring agencies that are deciding whether and how to regulate must "assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives, including the alternative of not regulating." I believe the only prudent course would be for EPA to include consideration of retaining the current particulate standard in its proposed rule. In following this path, progress will continue to be made by the ongoing implementation of the existing Clean Air Act while the necessary research is being conducted to address the unanswered questions.

Mr. CRAIG. I agree with my distinguished colleague from Oklahoma. I do not want the people in our states breathing unhealthy air. I applaud and fully support the funding provided by the Senator from Missouri's committee for particulate research. I just don't think it makes much sense to promulgate new standards until you know what particles are unhealthy. It is my understanding that rural fugitive dust might be further regulated by the EPA when it issues its new particulate standards. Idaho, and I believe, my colleague's State of Oklahoma, are renowned for the volumes of fine, natural dirt that are carried by our breezes out

West. Even without winds, just driving down a road, tilling a field, running cattle, sanding roads in the winter, or the gentlest of mining operations, will create dust. If dust is unhealthy, I'm sure the hard working people of my state will want to know about it, and would want to take measures to protect themselves. So I look forward to the CASAC's targeted study to be implemented before the rural fugitive dust standards are changed.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. If the chairman would yield, I would ask whether any of the money in the FY 1997 funding for particulate research will go to implementing an ambient air quality and emissions monitoring program, and will EPA be placing the monitors, or simply telling the States to do it? We want to know not just whether this expense will bring any health benefits, but also whether it will create serious unfunded mandates problem. I would ask the chairman if he would join me in requesting that the EPA send the appropriate committees of Congress, within 90 days, a description of the monitoring program they will be implementing and to what extent EPA will fund the cost of that program, and whether they intend to ask for additional funding in FY 1998.

Mr. BOND. Yes, the agency has informed me that it will be using the 1997 appropriation for both increased health effects research and, in addition, more than \$2 million will be for initiating an emissions monitoring program. In addition, it is my understanding EPA will be requesting additional funds for monitoring in its FY98 budget submission. It is my expectation that the agency will request the funds necessary to establish a thorough and scientifically defensible monitoring program. I concur that EPA should send us a description of their proposed comprehensive monitoring program and a budget proposal.

I thank my colleagues, and I agree with my colleagues that EPA should seriously consider a "no change" option as part of its proposed decision due by November 29. However, I would add that in view of the potential for harm to the public from particulates, a prudent option for the November deadline would be to reaffirm the current ambient air standard—and thus not disrupt ongoing programs—while moving expeditiously to implement a sound research agenda upon which to base future decisions.

Mr. President, I am also concerned that EPA must pay closer attention to the potential adverse impacts of changes to the particulates standard on small businesses. I am aware that EPA is taking the position that changes to the particulates standard do not impact small business in terms of implicating the Regulatory Flexibility Act, because the EPA's standards do not create burdens on small business, it is the State implementation plan. As a primary author of the 1996 amendments to the Regulatory Flexibility

Act, I strongly disagree with the agency's interpretation, and believe that EPA agency should fully comply with the requirements imposed on Federal agencies by that act.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT CONCERNING THE EMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES OF MONGOLIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 167

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby transmit a report concerning emigration laws and policies of Mongolia as required by subsections 402(b) and 409(b) of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("the Act"). I have determined that Mongolia is in full compliance with the criteria in subsections 402(a) and 409(a) of the Act. As required by title IV, I will provide the Congress with periodic reports regarding Mongolia's compliance with these emigration standards.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 4, 1996.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1467. An act to authorize the construction of the Fort Peck Rural County Water Supply System, to authorize assistance to the Fort Peck Rural County Water District, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning, design, and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3553. An act to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to authorize appropriations for the Federal Trade Commission.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3754. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 1:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 120. Concurrent resolution supporting the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine and the progress of its political and economic reforms.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 389(d)(2) of Public Law 104-127, the minority leader appoints Mr. Richard Roos-Collins of California as a member from private life on the part of the House to the Water Rights Task Force.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3675) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. WOLF, Mr. DELAY, Mr. REGULA, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. LIGHTFOOT, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. SABO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. FOGLIETTA, and Mr. OBEY as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3816) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. MYERS, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. BUNN, Mr. PARKER, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. BEVILL, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. CHAPMAN, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, and Mr. OBEY, as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 401. An act entitled the "Kenai Natives Association Equity Act".

H.R. 447. An act to establish a toll free number in the Department of Commerce to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made.

H.R. 1179. An act to authorize appropriations for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings at historically black colleges and universities.

H.R. 1514. An act to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance safety, training, research and development, and safety education in the propane gas industry for the benefit of propane consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2122. An act to designate the Lake Tahoe Basin National Forest in the States of California and Nevada to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2135. An act to provide for the relief of certain persons in Clark County, Nevada, who purchased lands in good faith reliance on existing private land surveys.

H.R. 2292. An act to preserve and protect the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2438. An act to provide for the conveyance of lands to certain individuals in Gunnison County, Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2518. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain lands in the Wenatchee National Forest, Washington, for certain lands owned by Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2709. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain land to the Del Norte County Unified School District of Del Norte County, California.

H.R. 2711. An act to provide for the substitution of timber for the canceled Elkhorn Ridge Timber Sale.

H.R. 3147. An act to provide for the exchange of certain Federal lands in the State of California managed by the Bureau of Land Management for certain non-Federal lands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3378. An act to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to extend the demonstration program for direct billing of Medicare, Medicaid, and other third party payors.

H.R. 3487. An act to reauthorize the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3547. An act to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of real property in the Apache National Forest in the State of Arizona to the Alpine Elementary School District 7 to be used for the construction of school facilities and related playing fields.

H.R. 3579. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain property containing a fish and wildlife facility to the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3660. An act to make amendments to the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3793. An act to provide for a 10-year circulating commemorative coin program to commemorate each of the 50 States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3864. An act to amend laws authorizing auditing, reporting, other functions by the General Accounting Office.

H.R. 3871. An act to waive temporarily the Medicaid enrollment composition rule for certain health maintenance organizations.

H.R. 3916. An act to make available certain Voice of America and Radio Marti multilingual computer readable text and voice recordings.

H.R. 4018. An act to make technical corrections in the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills.

H.R. 740. An act to confer jurisdiction on the United States Court of Federal Claims with respect to land claims of Pueblo of Isleta Indian Tribe.

H.R. 3269. An act to amend the Impact Aid program to provide for a hold-harmless with respect to amounts for payments relating to