

the bill which contains language that directs SBA to conduct a study on the potential to aid small businesses that are owned by service disabled veterans. I believe it is important to conduct research into this issue and see if the opportunity exists to better assist these businesses.

There are other components of the Small Business Reauthorization Act which I have not mentioned here but will be helpful to small businesses participating in the SBA's programs. The Small Business Investment Companies and Small Business Development Centers Programs are both modified through this act. The Pilot Preferred Surety Bond Guarantee Program is also extended in this legislation.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude by again thanking the Chairman of the Small Business Committee, Senator BOND, for his leadership throughout the year on reaching this point and passing what I consider to be a very meaningful and effective piece of legislation. It is clear that the Small Business Administration will be assured of its continued support by Congress as it moves ahead to the 21st century assisting the driving force of our economy, American small business.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity of commending Senator BOND for his efforts in bringing this Small Business Reauthorization Act to the floor for consideration. In particular, I am grateful for his deep commitment and tireless dedication to improving the Small Business Administration's [SBA] Women's Business Centers program. As a result of his work, this program will be expanded and modified so that it targets more appropriately the thousands of women entrepreneurs who provide jobs and economic growth to their local communities.

I also want to commend Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON for her strong support of this program. My legislation, S. 888, the Women's Business Centers Act of 1997, introduced in behalf of myself, Senator BOND, Senator KERRY and 23 other cosponsors, was the companion bill to Representative JOHNSON's legislation. Due to the strong bipartisan support of Chairman BOND and other members of the Senate Small Business Committee, S. 888 was incorporated into this reauthorization bill. Congresswoman JOHNSON has been a long-time and dedicated friend of women's business efforts, and I am most appreciative that we were able to work together on this important measure.

Many of us believe that the SBA must give renewed attention to one of its smallest but most successful business programs. This legislation, therefore, doubles the amount of funds available to Women's Business Centers, and it extends the grant period from 3 years to 5 years. It also changes the funding formula so that newly created business sites will have a more realistic Federal-to-non-Federal matching

program. This latter issue is important because up to this point, women's business centers have been required to meet a much stricter matching grant requirement than have other grantees in the SBA's grant programs. I remain somewhat concerned, however, that existing business site grantees must still bear a slightly higher burden of matching fund requirements. Nevertheless, the overall changes to the Women's Business Centers Program are noteworthy and extremely positive.

By passage of this reauthorization language, Congress recognizes the essential role of women-owned small businesses to this country's local and national economies. Congress also recognizes the necessity of added SBA administrative and programmatic support to the women's program. The SBA must ensure that the Office of Women's Business Ownership [OWBO] has adequate staffing and resources to manage this expanded program. It must also provide any supplemental assistance OWBO may need to manage its ongoing program while developing new and creative activities to enhance its present portfolio. Frankly, a program of this nature demands tangible agency commitment to its success. While OWBO and its women's business clients have an impressive and outstanding programmatic record, this small program deserves much more attention from the Agency than it has received thus far. I am hopeful that next year and in the years to come the SBA will work more closely with OWBO, as well as with Congress, to ensure that women's businesses are provided the necessary resources to continue their vital entrepreneurial endeavors.

I believe it is also important to give credit to the many able and committed directors and staff of the Women's Business Centers throughout the country. I know these professional women, like those of Agnes Noonan and her staff in my State of New Mexico, have counseled countless thousands of potential business clients and have established equal numbers of successful small businesses. Their tasks have not been easy, but they have met their management obligations while also creating an impressive and wide-ranging network of business colleagues to address the special challenges of women-owned businesses. The techniques they've learned and the expertise they share with one another have been instrumental in the overall success of this SBA program.

Once again, I commend Senator BOND for his attention and commitment to the Women's Business Centers Program. His able staff, particularly Ms. Suey Howe and Mr. Paul Cooksey, provided excellent professional support so that this program was reviewed and modified appropriately. I am very pleased Chairman BOND and other members of the committee have given this issue the attention it deserves. Women-owned businesses are an integral component of our Nation's busi-

ness sector and are instrumental to our country's overall economic health. The efforts of the Chairman and the committee will ensure that this SBA business program continues its obligations to so many deserving and successful women entrepreneurs. Thank you for the opportunity of sharing my support of this important program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion of the Senator from Missouri.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the motion was agreed to, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMANITARIAN DEMINING INITIATIVE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to speak briefly about an announcement the administration is making today to increase funding for humanitarian demining programs and appoint a demining czar. This is, of course, on the subject of landmines, which has been a concern of mine for many years. I have not received all the details, but I understand the administration plans to spend \$80 million on humanitarian demining programs next year, which is a significant increase over the current level.

They also plan to seek additional support from other governments, corporations, and foundations. Their goal is to raise \$1 billion to clear most of the world's landmines by the year 2010. I also understand Ambassador Karl Inderfurth, our Assistant Secretary for South Asia and formerly the U.S. Alternate Representative to the United Nations, is to become the new demining czar.

I can think of no better person to lead this effort than Ambassador Inderfurth. The Ambassador, known as Rick to his friends, is a long-time friend of mine. I have immense respect and admiration for him. I have watched him prowl the halls of the United Nations and buttonhole other representatives, as did Secretary of State Madeleine Albright when she was our U.N. Representative, to get support for an international ban on antipersonnel landmines.

Rick has been a passionate voice for the victims of landmines. I am very grateful that he has agreed to take this on, especially as he already has a full-time job that would be more than enough for most people. He will do a superb job.

This announcement is being made today by Secretaries Albright and Cohen. I commend them both, and I say that it is welcome news.

While its goals sound awfully ambitious, some may say even unrealistic, time will tell. They have my full support. This is an area in which not nearly enough has been done, and the United States has a great deal to offer.

Mr. President, today we clear landmines much the same way that we did in World War II or Korea. It takes an enormous amount of time and it is extremely dangerous. There is very little money, especially as most of these landmines are in the Third World.

Our leadership in this area could help immeasurably. Look what we did after World War II with the tens of millions of landmines spread all over Europe. We cleared most of them in a decade. There are still parts of Europe that have landmines today, but most of them are gone.

The administration's plan builds on what the Congress began some years ago. We established humanitarian demining programs at both the Departments of Defense and State. At the beginning, the Pentagon did not want to do it. They said it was not their mission. They said their job was breaching mine fields, not clearing mines. That is one reason there are so many unexploded landmines killing and maiming innocent people around the world.

What happens, of course, Mr. President, is that the world's militaries leave millions of landmines behind once the wars end, the soldiers go home, the guns are unloaded, the leaders sign the peace agreements, and hands are shaken.

But the landmines stay, and some unsuspecting child or farmer steps on them—a child going to school or someone going to gather water or firewood. Someone trying to raise crops to feed their family. Or an unsuspecting missionary.

There are so many victims, long after anybody even remembers who was fighting whom, or why. There are Russian mines, American mines, Italian mines and mines from other countries in hundreds of varieties in over 68 countries. It is estimated that it would cost, at the rate we are going now, billions of dollars over decades and decades to get rid of them.

Over time, the Pentagon has become more supportive. I hope this new initiative means that they are now fully on board. They have the expertise and technology to make an important contribution. They could cut years, years off the time it would take to demine the world.

Again, as I have said, we are using the same demining technologies that were common years ago. We are not taking advantage of some of the technology and expertise available today. And the demining programs that we now use have been in place for several years have a mixed record. The admin-

istration says they have spent some \$150 million to date. I wonder how many landmines have been removed for all that money? I suspect if anyone did the arithmetic it would come to hundreds of dollars, possibly even thousands of dollars, to remove each landmine. Of course, the tragic irony of that is that it only costs \$3 or \$4 to put the landmine in the ground in the first place.

So I suggest, in building on what Secretary Albright and Secretary Cohen said today, that we begin with a top-to-bottom review of our demining efforts. They are too uncoordinated among government agencies. This should include a thorough review of the program that is in the Pentagon itself.

The Pentagon should play a central role, but I am concerned that some Pentagon officials have been more interested in using this program to make contacts with foreign military personnel than to build the sustainable demining capabilities in these other countries. The soldiers we send to do the training in places like Eritrea and Mozambique and other mine-infested countries are among our best, and they do a terrific job. There is no one more proud of them than I am. But we need to be sure that when they leave, the people they have trained have the knowledge and the equipment and the support to carry on.

We have the Humanitarian Demining Technologies Program. This program funds research and development on new demining technologies. This program, again, established by the Congress three years ago, has the potential to revolutionize the way we detect and destroy landmines and other unexploded ordnance.

This may be what enables us to make that quantum leap forward so that instead of taking decades and decades to get rid of the mines, we cut that time substantially. The Pentagon also has a lot to offer in this area, but it has not been fully supportive of it despite the best efforts of the people involved. As one who has spent nearly 10 years working to ban anti-personnel landmines, to support programs to clear mines and care for the victims, I must say that there should be some thought given to moving this program elsewhere or reorganizing it, because there needs to be much more coordination with the private sector and with other governments that are also working in this area.

Mr. President, there is another part of this that needs to be mentioned. Two years ago, the President of the United States went to the United Nations to urge the world's nations to negotiate a treaty banning antipersonnel landmines.

In December, over 110 governments will sign such a treaty in Ottawa. But the United States is not going to be among them. In fact, not only will we be absent, now we find the Pentagon is backtracking on the pledge it made a year ago to find alternatives to antipersonnel landmines.

So taken in this context, it is no surprise that the administration feels it must do something to counter the growing impression around the world that the United States has become an obstacle to an international ban.

Thirteen members of NATO and most of the world's producers and users and exporters of landmines will sign the treaty in Ottawa, but not the world's only superpower. We have taken the position that even though we are the most powerful nation history has ever known, we cannot give up our landmines but we want everybody else to give up theirs. Rather than lead this effort, we risk being left behind with a handful of pariah states with whom we do not belong. We are too great a nation for that.

No one should suggest that a ban is a substitute for demining. There are some 100 million unexploded landmines in the ground, and whether there is a ban or not they will go on maiming and killing until we get rid of them. We have to do that. But neither is demining a substitute for a ban. Why spend billions of dollars to get rid of the mines if they are simply replaced with new mines?

We need to destroy the mines that are in the ground. We need to stop the laying of new mines. Both are necessary to rid the world of these insidious weapons.

So I welcome this initiative. I will do everything I can to support it. But let us not fool ourselves. The United States is about to miss a historic opportunity. We should sign the Ottawa treaty, just as we should do everything we can to lead an international demining effort to get rid of the mines in the ground.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article in today's Washington Post, which describes how the Pentagon is walking away from its pledge last May to find alternatives to antipersonnel landmines, a pledge that at the time they said reflected their "complete agreement" with the President's goal of an international ban, be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 31, 1997]

ADMINISTRATION DROPS PLANS TO FIND
SUBSTITUTES FOR ANTIPERSONNEL MINE

(By Dana Priest)

The Clinton administration has dropped its effort to find alternatives to a certain type of antipersonnel land mine, a move that has angered advocates of banning mines who say the president has retreated from his pledge to find a substitute for the weapon.

"There wasn't anything that conceptually made any sense," said a high-ranking Defense Department official who declined to be named. "And there is no humanitarian need for such an alternative."

Caleb Rossiter, director of Demilitarization for Democracy, which advocates an international land mine ban, said: "This is a huge policy change."

At issue are the millions of antipersonnel land mines used by U.S. troops to protect anti-tank minefields.

Since May 1996, Clinton has pledged to find alternatives to all mines this country uses, and the Pentagon has been studying various approaches. In January, when Clinton announced he would not sign an international treaty banning land mines, he directed the Defense Department "to develop alternatives to antipersonnel land mines, so that by the year 2003 we can end even the use of self-destruct land mines."

He also directed the Pentagon to find alternatives to the mines used on the Korean Peninsula by 2006.

At the same time, Clinton redefined the only type of antipersonnel land mine used by U.S. troops outside Korea—mines that are scattered around anti-tank mines to protect them from being breached by enemy troops. This is called a "mixed system" of anti-tank and antipersonnel mines. The administration now calls these antipersonnel land mines "devices" and "submunitions."

The practical result of this definitional change is that the Pentagon is no longer actively trying to come up with an alternative for these mines, of which the United States has more than 1 million.

"We are looking for alternatives to the Korean situation," said Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon. "The mixed packages are not a humanitarian threat."

The reason the mixed packages are not a humanitarian threat is because they turn themselves off after a set period of time, usually three hours. Even so, from May 1996 until this January, Clinton still wanted to find alternatives to them in hopes of inducing countries that use the troublesome non-self-destructing mines to give them up.

Non-self-destructing mines, also known as "dumb mines," are responsible for injuring or killing 25,000 people a year, many of them civilians.

U.S. negotiators working on the Ottawa treaty tried unsuccessfully to convince other countries to create an exemption for the antipersonnel mines used in anti-tank minefields.

Abandoning the search for alternatives, said Bobby Muller, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, would make it impossible for the United States to ever sign the treaty as it is written.

"Our bottom line is for the U.S. to sign the treaty," said Muller, who also is part of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which won the Nobel Peace Prize this year. "We are going to be in his [Clinton's] face. We are not going away."

Yesterday the international campaign began airing eight days of Washington-broadcast television ads aimed at pressuring Clinton to sign the treaty or to pledge to sign it at a specified date.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, let us hope that the Pentagon's pledge today to help lead an international demining effort is a lot longer lasting.

Mr. President, I have spoken on this subject so many times. I think of when I went to Oslo recently when governments were meeting there to talk about an international ban. And I was joined by Tim Riesen, of my staff, who has worked so hard on this, and David Carle. I met with the American negotiators who were there and had a chance to speak to the delegates and the NGO's and others who had gathered.

And I said: I dream of a world, as we go into the next century, a world where armies of humanity dig up and destroy the landmines that are in the ground and when no other armies come and put new landmines down.

If we did that, Mr. President, if the world did that, removed the landmines that are there, banned the use of new landmines, we would give such great hope to people everywhere.

Today, there are countries where families literally have to tether their child on a rope near where they live because they know within the circle of that rope is one of the few areas that is free of landmines. And the child can play only on the end of a leash like a dog.

These are the same places where people often go hungry. They cannot work in their fields without risking their lives. And they often have no choice. And when one of them loses a limb, or his or her life, the whole family suffers. That is the reality for millions of people, and that is why this demining initiative is so important.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Seeing nobody else seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF BILL LANN LEE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have spoken many times on the floor about the nomination of Bill Lann Lee to be the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Mr. Lee testified before the Judiciary Committee. It was really the culmination of the American dream. A son of Chinese immigrants who went from living at the family laundry upon his father returning from World War II and then on to achieving one of the highest academic records ever, and ends up dedicating his life to protecting the civil rights of all Americans. At a time when we are discussing what is happening regarding the lack of civil rights in the country of his forbears—what a marked contrast.

I am concerned when I hear some Members trying to stall or defeat his nomination. They have done it by mischaracterizing Mr. Lee and his record of practical problem solving.

Yesterday, my statement pointed out that the confirmation of this son of Chinese immigrants to be the principal Federal law enforcement official responsible for protecting the civil rights of all Americans would stand in sharp contrast to the human rights practices in China.

Some are obviously trying to stall or defeat this nomination by mischaracterizing Mr. Lee and his record of practical problem solving. Bill Lee testified that he regards quotas as illegal and wrong, but some

would ignore his real record of achievement and our hearing if allowed to do so. I am confident that the vast majority of the Senate and the American people will see through the partisan rhetoric and support Bill Lee.

Bill Lee has dedicated his career to wide ranging work on civil rights issues. He has represented poor children who were being denied lead screening tests, women and people of color who were denied job opportunities and promotions, neighbors in a mixed income and mixed race community who strove to save their homes, and parents seeking a good education for their children. Mr. Lee has developed a broad array of supporters over the years, including the Republican mayor of Los Angeles, former opposing counsels, and numerous others who cross race, gender and political affiliation lines.

Senator D'AMATO spoke eloquently of Mr. Lee's qualifications and background while introducing him last week. Senator WARNER wrote to the White House in support of Mr. Lee's candidacy. Senators MOYNIHAN, INOUE, AKAKA, FEINSTEIN, and BOXER supported Mr. Lee at his confirmation hearing last week and Representatives MINK, BECCERA, MATSUI, and JACKSON-LEE all took the time to come to the hearings to show their commitment to this outstanding nominee.

To those who know him, Bill Lee is a person of integrity who is well known for resolving complex cases. He has been involved in approximately 200 cases in his 23 years of law practice, and he has settled all but 6 of them. Clearly, this is strong evidence that Mr. Lee is a problem solver and practical in his approach to the law. No one who has taken the time to thoroughly review his record could call him an idealogue.

Further evidence that Mr. Lee is the man for the job is contained in the editorials from some of our country's leading newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Washington Post, and New York Times. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD copies of those editorials and articles at the conclusion of my statement, and I also ask to be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my statement, a letter from the assistant city attorney from Los Angeles that corrects a misimpression that may have been created by a letter recently sent by NEWT GINGRICH.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

As Robert Cramer's letter establishes, Mr. Lee neither sought to impose racial or gender quota nor employed dubious means in a case in which he, in fact, was not even active as counsel. Mr. Cramer, a 17-year veteran attorney for the city of Los Angeles, concludes:

Bill Lann Lee and I have sat on opposite sides of the negotiating table over the course of several years. Although we have disagreed profoundly on many issues, I have throughout the time I have known him respected