

a U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

Rodney Sippel is a uniquely well-qualified nominee, with a wealth of experience in the practice of law and in public service. He has years of litigation experience at the law firm of Husch & Eppenger in St. Louis, MO. He is also a dedicated public servant, having served in the office of our former colleague, Senator Thomas Eagleton, and as an administrative assistant to the House Democratic leader, RICHARD GEPHARDT.

The American Bar Association found Mr. Sippel to be qualified for this appointment and his nomination enjoys the support of both Senators from Missouri.

The President nominated Rodney Sippel on May 15, 1997. After several months of inaction, the Judiciary Committee finally held a hearing on his nomination on October 28 and the committee favorably and unanimously reported his nomination to the full Senate on November 6.

I congratulate Rodney Sippel and his family on his confirmation. I look forward to his service as a U.S. district court judge.

I would like to note that the nomination process experienced by Rodney Sippel is a common one in this 105th Congress. It is an experience of unnecessary delay. After his nomination languished for months in the Judiciary Committee, the majority finally focused on Rodney Sippel and he was unanimously confirmed. I am not sure why it took so long for the majority to confirm this well-qualified nominee, but I am glad that they finally realized that he will be an outstanding Federal judge.

CONFIRMATION OF BRUCE C. KAUFFMAN TO BE A U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate confirmed Bruce C. Kauffman to be a U.S. district judge for the eastern district of Pennsylvania. Mr. Kauffman is a well-qualified nominee.

The nominee has decades of legal experience in the private practice of law at the firm of Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish & Kauffman in Philadelphia. He has also served the public interest as a justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth's highest appellate court, and as a member of numerous task forces and commissions benefiting the city of Philadelphia. The American Bar Association has found him to be well-qualified for this appointment.

We first received Mr. Kauffman's nomination on July 31, 1997. He had a confirmation hearing on September 5. He was unanimously reported by the committee on November 6. With the strong support of Senator SPECTER, this nomination has moved expedi-

tiously through the committee and the Senate.

I congratulate Mr. Kauffman and his family and look forward to his service on the district court. •

CONFIRMATION OF MARTIN J. JENKINS TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate confirmed Judge Martin J. Jenkins to be a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California.

The American Bar Association unanimously found Judge Jenkins to be well-qualified, its highest rating, for this appointment. He has extensive trial experience as a deputy district attorney for Alameda County, trial attorney with the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, and civil litigator with Pacific Bell. He also has extensive judicial experience as a former municipal court judge and in his current position as Alameda County Superior Court judge. His nomination enjoys the strong support of Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER.

The Judiciary Committee unanimously reported his nomination to the Senate on November 6, 1997. With the confirmation of Charles Breyer, the Northern District of California now has 2 vacancies out of 14 judgeships and desperately needs Judge Jenkins to help manage its growing backlog of cases.

I am delighted for Judge Jenkins and his distinguished family that he was confirmed. He will make a fine judge. •

TRIBUTE TO HERBERT COHEN

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and great Vermonter, Herbert Cohen. Herbert died unexpectedly on July 27, 1997 at the age of 67.

A respected entrepreneur in Rutland, Herbert owned and operated Vermont Contract Furnishings along with his wife Sandy. His business focused on interior designs for the condominium and vacation home markets. Accordingly, he was selected to provide these services for the 1980 Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid.

Herbert was a member of the board for Rutland's Regional Medical Center and was selected to act as president for the local Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of his outstanding achievements and dedication to the people of Vermont, Herbert was named "Citizen of the Year" in 1987.

Herbert played an integral role in Rutland's revitalization. Through his efforts in restoring one of the areas most prominent storefronts, Herbert has left a lasting impression upon residents and visitors alike that will be slow to fade.

Mr. President, I would like to extend my condolences to his family and friends. •

ELEVEN CONNECTICUT ORGANIZATIONS, COMPANIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES NAMED TO WOMEN'S BUREAU HONOR ROLL

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate 11 organizations, companies, and municipalities in my home State of Connecticut for being named to the honor roll of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor. This honor roll recognizes entities across the country that have made a commitment to working women and to a family-friendly workplace. Most Americans go to work each day worried about their health care, affordable and reliable child care, living wages, and job protection in times of family crisis. These organizations are trying to help alleviate some of these worries and should be applauded for their efforts.

The 11 honorees from Connecticut are: Aetna Inc., the city of New Britain, the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, DCC/The Dependent Care Connection Inc., the Entrepreneurial Center at Hartford College for Women, GTE Service Corp., ITT Hartford, Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Co., United Illuminating Co., United Technologies Corp., and the Urban League of southwestern Connecticut.

These entities are helping working women to achieve better pay and benefits, to strike a better balance of work and family responsibilities, and to gain more respect and opportunity on the job. For example, flexible work schedules and interactive retirement planning software allow more women to pick up a sick child from school or help plan for their and their families' financial future. Other programs instituted by these family-friendly Connecticut organizations include discounted on-site day care, at-home offices, extensive prenatal care, and seminars to assist families with college planning.

The American work force is changing. When The Department of Labor Women's Bureau was created by Congress in 1920, there were only 8.25 million working women—less than 20 percent of our Nation's work force. Today, nearly 60 million women work for pay—almost 50 percent of our Nation's work force. Not only are more women working, but more women must work to make ends meet for their families. America's work force and families are facing new challenges and it is organizations like these 11 that deserve to be applauded for making innovative and constructive efforts to make their workplaces more family-friendly.

As we applaud these honor roll members we must also remember that there are challenges that still need to be addressed in our changing workplace. By and large, American working women still have difficulty finding affordable child care, paid sick leave, and unpaid family leave during an extended family crisis. And let us not forget that women continue to face discrimination in hiring and promotion, as well as underpayment in comparisons to men with the same or similar credentials.

Though we have made some progress, such as passing the Family and Medical Leave Act, it is obvious we still have challenges to overcome. So, let's applaud the companies, organizations, and municipalities on the Labor Department's honor roll for working women. And let's continue to struggle toward solutions to make every workplace a family-friendly workplace.●

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to cosponsor the African Growth and Opportunity Act, introduced by my colleague, Senator LUGAR. I do this because I believe greater trade and economic development is in the interest of sub-Saharan Africa, and in the interest of the United States.

For too long, Mr. President, our policy toward the nations of sub-Saharan Africa has been based largely on a series of bilateral donor-recipient aid relationships. While this policy has produced some notable successes in terms of staving off starvation, it also has spawned an inappropriate vision of the United States as patron to literally dozens of independent nations, while fostering a debilitating dependence on foreign assistance. As a consequence, this policy has in fact stood in the way of economic growth, self-reliance and political stability for the vast majority of people in this region.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act will establish a new relationship between the United States and the nations of sub-Saharan Africa. It will promote economic growth through private sector activity and trade incentives, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship and encouraging economic and political reforms in the interests of the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa.

The bill directs the President to develop a plan to establish a United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Free-Trade Area to stimulate trade. It also eliminates quotas on textiles and apparel from Kenya and Mauritius, contingent on these countries' adopting a visa system to guard against transshipment.

In addition, this legislation would establish an economic forum to facilitate trade discussions and work with the private sector to develop an investment agenda. USAID moneys would not be effected in any way. However, OPIC would be instructed to create a privately funded, \$150 million equity fund and a \$500 million infrastructure fund for Africa. Finally, the bill mandates that one member of the board of directors of the Export-Import Bank and OPIC have extensive private investment sector experience in Africa.

Benefits from these initiatives would be available to any nation in the sub-Saharan region instituting serious economic and political reforms.

Mr. President, the provisions of this legislation in effect would create a free-trade zone in sub-Saharan Africa. They would promote increased trade,

increased privatization, increased democracy, and increased prosperity for the people of the region. By ending the current patron-client relationship, and substituting for it an equal partnership among independent nations, we can benefit everyone involved.

I urge my colleagues to support this important, forward-looking legislation.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHY LACEY

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Kathy Lacey, my deputy legislative director, who I regret will retire at the end of December after serving California for 27 years as a staff member in the U.S. Senate.

Kathy came to Washington, DC 27 years ago having studied at Vassar College and after graduate work at the University of Southern California. Her graduate work at USC was in Asian studies and Chinese language. She knew other friends who had used their studies by going to work for the Federal Government and she thought she would find similar opportunities. Instead, former Senator Alan Cranston hired Kathy and she went to work using her love and knowledge of California.

When Kathy describes her service in the U.S. Senate to younger staff just starting their careers, she says that her effort was always on behalf of the people of California. Her work ranged from trying to assist farmers with export of their crops, to helping cities get their funds to build sewage treatment plants, to fixing levees or to analyzing the science of radioactive waste, pests, and pesticides, or endangered species.

But what gives Kathy the most satisfaction is the work which she has done, both with me and with Alan Cranston, to protect California's special places. Legislation she has worked on over her 27-year career has protected almost 12 million acres of wilderness in California. More than half of that acreage was part of the Desert Protection Act. I could not have successfully gotten that bill passed without Kathy's knowledge and continuous work.

But Kathy was also involved in the creation of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, establishment of Channel Island National Park, expansion of Redwood National Park, protection of Mineral King through its addition to Sequoia National Park, establishment of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, preservation of the Tuolumne River, enactment of the Smith River bill which protected watersheds and old growth in the Six Rivers National Forest, and designation of almost all of the wilderness in California including the 1.8-million-acre California wilderness bill.

Kathy grew up in Pasadena. Her parents had come to California as teenagers. Her mother and brother still live there. Because Kathy chose to come to

Washington, DC, and work for California, she has made a lasting contribution to her State.

Kathy plans to leave the Congress and have new adventures with her husband, Cal, who has also recently retired. On behalf of everyone in California, I thank Kathy for her professional spirit which was important to me from my first days in the U.S. Senate and I thank her for her dedicated example which has proved so significant to California.●

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes today in order to lay out my reasons for voting against the Fiscal Year 1998 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

Mr. President, when I was running for the Senate last year, there were two campaign promises that I made to the people of the great State of Alabama. First, I promised that I would work to reign in wasteful Washington spending and secondly, that I would work to bring Alabama values into the Washington public-policy debate. It was for these two simple reasons that I felt compelled to cast my vote against the Labor, HHS appropriations bill.

The fiscal year 1998 Labor, HHS appropriations bill contained roughly \$80 billion in spending for Washington social programs. This is an increase of roughly \$6.2 billion from fiscal year 1997's bill. Now Mr. President, the average Alabamian, if they're lucky, sees a cost-of-living increase in their paycheck each year of around 2.8 percent. That's it, 2.8 percent. However, this bill increases Washington social spending by over 8 percent. That's an increase of almost three times the average Alabamian's yearly cost-of-living increase. That to me is unacceptable.

I have spent many long hours looking through the merits of many of these programs. We have many good programs, with a proven track record, that need to be funded and supported. But Mr. President, the Labor, HHS appropriations bill we voted on also contained many social programs that are unproven or just too costly. The taxpayers of America deserve to know that their hard earned tax dollars are spent wisely. If we continue to raise spending faster than our economic growth—faster than the cost of living—then we are in danger of returning to the old tax and spend mentality that has nearly bankrupted this country. With great reluctance, I must vote "no."

There were several other provisions missing from this bill which also compelled me to vote against it. First, my tobacco amendment, added to the bill by the Senate on September 10, which would have limited any tobacco attorney's fees and required that all such fees be made public for inspection prior to the passage of any global settlement, was stripped during negotiations