

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, to explain to the colleagues what is going to happen next, we are going to conclude debate this evening on the Chemical Weapons Convention and then reinstate it tomorrow.

We will begin tomorrow with the closed session which will be a 2-hour closed session in the Old Senate Chamber, and thereafter resume debate, including the motions to strike.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I have a unanimous-consent request that has been cleared on both sides. I ask unanimous consent that 1 hour of the 2 hours devoted to the closed session not be counted against the 10-hour debate time as provided in the consent agreement.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

PUTTING FAMILIES FIRST: 100 DAYS PAST DUE AND COUNTING

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, over the past months South Dakota has suffered some of the worst disasters in recent memory. The drifts of snow that have paralyzed our State and killed over 100,000 cattle are at last melting, but their runoff has swelled our lakes and rivers to overflowing and forced thousands to evacuate in the face of devastating floodwaters. Only the hard work of South Dakotans, building dikes and filling sandbags to save the homes of their friends and neighbors, has prevented the serious disaster we are facing from having more catastrophic consequences.

I am also proud to say that during these disasters, our bipartisan elected leadership has set politics aside and worked together for the good of our State. Our Democratic President, our Republican Governor, our entire congressional delegation, and every local leader have made overcoming the disaster our first priority. As Governor Bill Janklow of South Dakota stated, "There is no way that Republican or Democrat politics should come into play when we are dealing with the things that are vital to all the people of this State." Together, we believe that meeting the needs of our families and our communities should always come first.

This philosophy has served South Dakota well during its time of need, and I am convinced that what has worked in South Dakota can work here in Washington. Recently, we passed the

100th day of this Congress. Since we began this session, 14 million children attended classes in schools that are falling apart, 180,000 babies were born without health care coverage and 51 million workers labored without a pension plan. Unfortunately, this Congress has accomplished nothing to meet these dire needs. It is now time to make good on our pledges of cooperation. Just as South Dakotans have joined together for the good of our State, we in Congress must join together for the good of our country and deliver much-needed relief to America's working families.

On the first day of the 105th Congress, I introduced bills to enact the Families First Agenda to raise the incomes of working families, extend affordable health coverage to children, expand the retirement benefits of workers, and make it easier for students of all ages to receive a quality education. Now it is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. I urge my colleagues to join with me to support America's families. Every day we wait is another day they struggle to make ends meet.

Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very important letter I received from Kym Pacheco, a resident of Sioux Falls, SD. It is a heartbreaking letter, and it tells the story of working families better than any words of mine. Despite a 105-hour work week as a truck driver, Kym's husband earns just enough for the family to get by. Each month they struggle to pay their rent and the grocery, gas, and phone bills. "Mind you," she writes, "none of this includes car repairs, school supplies, clothes, medications, or car insurance. There are no luxuries—week-end vacations, a nice car, trips to McDonald's. What we wouldn't do to be able to take our son to the Black Hills for a week! . . . But we cannot put any money into the savings. We literally live paycheck to paycheck!"

Mr. President, no one in our Nation who works 105 hours a week should live one paycheck away from an empty stomach or a missed rent payment. Families like Kym's work hard but cannot get ahead, and they fear for the future of their children. They have faith that life can be better, but they are depending upon us to give them the help they need. We cannot let them down. As Kym continues, "There are so many problems in the U.S., but I honestly believe that when our government starts passing laws that actually give families affordable, decent coverage health insurance, decent wages, tax breaks for poor and middle class working families, our country will become better. It would be a start! Our children deserve an opportunity to live better than we did!"

Mr. President, her children do deserve that opportunity, and we can give it to them. Let us accept Kym's challenge. If we put the interests of working families before party politics,

we can provide working families with tax breaks for education and ensure that parents can afford to take their children to the doctor. We can ensure that in future years when Kym's children retire they will have financial security. All of this is in our power, but to meet our goal we must work together. I hope my colleagues will join me in this task.

COMMENDING VOLUNTEERS ON THE FLOOD RELIEF EFFORT

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I want to highlight the commendable effort displayed by the legion of West Virginia volunteers who have done so much to help their neighbors and communities affected by last month's flooding in sixteen West Virginia counties. Their selfless dedication to neighbors in need is in the finest West Virginia tradition of community spirit and support.

The efforts of volunteers from the Fire and Rescue Departments throughout the affected area are especially noteworthy. These heroic workers rescued numerous families and individuals trapped by the raging flood waters that swept through my beloved state. You may recall some of the harrowing events displayed on television news, particularly from those hardest hit counties of Kanawha, Cabell, and Wirt. Also working during the storms and in their destructive aftermath, utility employees labored long hours in driving rain and deep mud to restore electricity, gas, water, and sewer service to the affected communities.

Mr. President, churches have always sustained the people of West Virginia, and never more so than when disaster strikes. Aside from providing physical sustenance to the affected residents, the community churches that dot our hills and hollows have also provided flood victims with moral and spiritual comfort to ease the pain of all that has been lost. Particularly hard hit in this flood, the people of Clendenin have received extensive and much-needed support from churches, neighbors, and other charitable organizations. After all of the floods of last year, it is uplifting to see that such strong community spirit yet endures among the Mountaineers of West Virginia. This year, as in previous years, volunteers, churches, and organizations like the Red Cross have risen above the flood waters of disaster to provide comfort and hope to their neighbors. I am reminded of the words of poet, essayist, and critic Matthew Arnold:

Then, in such hour of need
Of your fainting, dispirited race,
Ye, like angels, appear,
Radiant with ardour divine!
Beacons of hope, ye appear!
Langour is not in your heart,
Weakness is not in your word,
Weariness not on your brow.

Surely, the concerned faces and helping hands of volunteers and church workers seemed divinely inspired to the flood victims who benefited from

their tireless efforts. Mr. President, I offer my thanks to all of those individuals, congregations, and charitable organizations who respond with such compassion and energy when disaster strikes.

RETIREMENT OF DR. SHELDON HACKNEY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, earlier this week Sheldon Hackney, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, announced that he would be leaving office and returning to teaching at the end of his term of office in August. Dr. Hackney came to the endowment in 1993, following a brilliant academic and administrative career, including service as president of the University of Pennsylvania.

News of his retirement saddens all of us who know what a superb job he has done at the endowment for the past 4 years. Perhaps his most notable achievement has been in taming the intense political controversies that were swirling around the endowment when he arrived. The controversies persist, but fortunately, they are muted because of his leadership. The endowment has earned new bipartisan support because of the effective way he has explained its important mission to liberals and conservatives alike. He will be greatly missed, but I wish him well.

Asked about his views on eliminating the endowment, Dr. Hackney responded with characteristic eloquence,

The only legitimate argument against continuing it is from someone who believes in a minimalist government, that government shouldn't be in culture at all. The endowment does things that no one else would do but need to be done if we are to remember who we are and what the heritage of our nation is.

I ask unanimous consent that an article from the New York Times about Dr. Hackney may be printed at this point in the RECORD. The humanity of the man shines through, and through him the humanities endowment has shone through as well.

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

[From the New York Times, Apr. 21, 1997]

CHAIRMAN TO LEAVE HUMANITIES ENDOWMENT
(By Irvin Molotsky)

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Sheldon Hackney, who has led the National Endowment for the Humanities during a period of reduced budgets, told the White House today that he would not seek another term as chairman and would return to the University of Pennsylvania to teach history.

Mr. Hackney, who stepped down as president of Penn to come to Washington four years ago, said today that he had planned all along to step down when his four-year term expired in August.

"I never discussed it with the White House," he said, "but I'm sure I could have stayed."

The endowment, which provides Federal money for research and exhibitions on history and other scholarly pursuits, has been

less of a lightning rod for fiscal conservatives than its counterpart, the National Endowment for the Arts. But it has been bracketed with the arts endowment as the target of spending cuts and its budget has been reduced in recent years.

When asked about his disappointments as chairman, Mr. Hackney said: "The political situation changed, and I had to spend more time than I wanted telling the public and Congress what we do. I could have spent that time on programs."

The change in the political situation that Mr. Hackney spoke of was the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, when many opponents of Federal spending for the arts and humanities were elected to the House and Senate.

Spending for the humanities endowment has fallen from a high of \$172 million in 1993 to \$110 million in the current budget. President Clinton has asked for \$136 million for next year, but Congress is unlikely to approve that much.

"Despite the turbulence of the times," Mr. Hackney said, "I feel very good. We've accomplished a lot."

Besides keeping the endowment alive, Mr. Hackney said, his accomplishments include making the endowment nonpolitical and nonideological, reversing a pattern that he said took hold during the Reagan and Bush Administrations.

Asked to provide a defense for continuing the endowment, Mr. Hackney said: "The only legitimate argument against continuing it is from someone who believes in minimalist government, that government shouldn't be in culture at all. The endowment does things that no one else would do but need to be done if we are to remember who we are and what the heritage of our nation is."

"One of the purposes of government is to create good citizens. That's what we do at the N.E.H. We are a democratizing force in American culture."

Representative Sidney R. Yates, Democrat of Illinois, an advocate of both endowments who was chairman of the House committee that approved their financing when the Democrats were in the majority, said he thought Mr. Hackney has succeeded in removing the endowment from partisan politics.

"We'll miss him," Mr. Yates said. "I think he's been very good. He's been a very good administrator of the humanities endowment at a difficult time with less money."

Representative Ralph Regula, Republican of Ohio, who is chairman of the appropriations panel Mr. Yates once led, said of Mr. Hackney, "I think he's worked hard at giving the N.E.H. good leadership, especially in the field of libraries."

Asked whether Mr. Hackney had kept politics and ideology out of the endowment, Representative Regula said, "He has been very successful in that regard." He added, however, that he thought Mr. Hackney's Republican predecessors had also kept partisanship out.

A Republican critic of the endowment, Representative John T. Doolittle, a Californian, said it spent money on uneeded programs, money that could be better used "to save Medicare from bankruptcy and balance the budget."

"If there were ever a Federal agency or program that deserves a trip to the chopping block, it is this sandbox for the cultural elite," Mr. Doolittle said.

Mr. Regula did not agree with his Republican colleague. "I think it will survive in some form or another," he said. "I think the preservation of the culture of society is important."

Mr. Hackney said the endowment had supported many good projects without getting

much credit for it, like providing some of the money for public television programs on Theodore Roosevelt and the American West.

"The public doesn't normally notice who is funding projects," he said. "People say: 'Oh, my goodness. Did you do that?'"

Mr. Hackney, an Alabamian, said that at Penn he would return to one his great interests by teaching a course on the history of the South.

When he was named chairman of the endowment, Mr. Hackney was succeeded by Judith S. Rodin as university president.

"I'm going to teach history and stay out of her way," Mr. Hackney said.

SENATE IMMIGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF 1996 INS LEGAL IMMIGRATION NUMBERS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, yesterday, the Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] officially released its legal immigration numbers for 1996. Attached please find an analysis by the staff of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee that helps place these numbers into context.

The analysis finds:

First, the 1996 increase in immigration is not part of a long-term rise in legal immigration but rather a temporary increase.

Second, many additional people being counted as immigrants in 1996 and 1997 were not new entrants but were already physically in the country as the spouses of those who received amnesty under the law signed by President Reagan in 1986.

Third, the increase is due largely to INS processing delays that caused many people who would have been counted as immigrants in 1995 to be counted in 1996.

Fourth, after a 20-percent decline between 1993 and 1995, this short-term increase in legal immigration numbers is expected to be followed by another decline to previous levels within 2 to 3 years.

And finally, in historical terms, legal immigration is moderate when measured as a percentage of the U.S. population—0.3 percent—the most accurate measurement of immigrants' economic and demographic impact. Numerically, legal immigration in 1996 was below the level recorded on 10 other occasions since 1904.

As chairman of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee, I hope this analysis sheds light on the legal immigration numbers released yesterday by INS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Immigration Subcommittee's analysis of the 1996 INS legal immigration numbers be included in the RECORD. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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