

attract new businesses to Montana as well.

During the just-concluded debate on the fiscal year 1998 budget resolution, I was pleased to support a sense of the Senate resolution offered by Senator FAIRCLOTH which puts the Senate on record as supporting a tax credit for the expenses of two-year colleges. As debate on the budget continues, I look forward to working with my colleagues on enacting this measure.●

S. 625, THE AUTO CHOICE REFORM ACT OF 1997

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. On April 22, 1997, I introduced S. 625, the Auto Choice Reform Act of 1997, along with Senators JOE LIEBERMAN, MITCH MCCONNELL, SLADE GORTON, and ROD GRAMS. S. 625 is designed to reform the Nation's auto-insurance system by giving motorists a low-cost alternative for bodily injury coverage that provides quicker, more comprehensive recovery of economic losses.

The Auto Choice Reform Act would remove many incentives for fraud, which is endemic to the current auto-insurance system. On Wednesday, May 21, 1997, for instance the Nassau County District Attorney's office arrested 20 people involved in a massive insurance fraud scam. Those arrested by operation backbone included lawyers, chiropractors, and a doctor. Our bill would eliminate many of the incentives that promote this kind of abuse.

I ask that the Newsday article, "Real Charges: Fake Injuries Lead to 20 Arrests in Insurance Scams," be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From Newsday, Thursday, May 22, 1997]

REAL CHARGES

(By Pete Bowles)

After prepping a "patient" for four minutes on how to fake injuries during a medical exam—including a demonstration on moaning "ooh and aah"—Hempstead chiropractor Martin Drasin said his client was ready for an award-winning performance, according to a videotape made by an undercover investigator.

"I know how they are going to try to trick you up," Drasin told the agent, who carried a hidden video recorder. Drasin advised the man on what to do when asked to move his legs up and down at the exam. "Give an ooh and an aah and say, 'I can't do that,'" he said, and added: "Move slow. You'll get the Oscar here."

Drasin, 42, whose video performance was played by Nassau District Attorney Denis Dillon at a news conference, was among 20 people—including 12 chiropractors, four attorneys and an orthopedist—charged yesterday with submitting fraudulent claims for automobile no-fault insurance, disability and workers' compensation insurance.

Dillon said the 20 were nabbed during a two-year investigation called Operation Backbone, in which law-enforcement agents posing as accident victims sought legal and medical assistance from attorneys and chiropractors. The targets had been selected by insurance companies who suspected skullduggery.

All the meetings were recorded, Dillon said. Playing the part of accident victims

were undercover operatives from the DA's office, the Nassau County Police Department, the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

All but one of the suspects were arrested yesterday on a variety of charges, including insurance fraud, grand larceny, scheming to defraud and falsifying business records.

Freeport attorney Alvin Dorfman, 62, a former Democratic committeeman who challenged Dillon for the Democratic designation for district attorney in 1974, was said to be in Israel on vacation and is expected to surrender next week for arraignment in U.S. District Court in Uniondale. He was charged with mail fraud and conspiracy to commit mail fraud.

"Both my clients maintain they are completely innocent," said Dorfman's attorney, Stephen Scaring, who also represents Garden City attorney Gerard McLoughlin, 49, who was charged with insurance fraud and attempted grand larceny. "We are somewhat shocked that this kind of undercover operation would occur, and we are confident that the tapes themselves will likely establish the innocence of each of these defendants."

Seventeen defendants pleaded innocent in First District Court in Hempstead and were released. They face up to 7 years in prison if convicted. Two others, Dorfman's legal assistant, Mariela Brito, 33, and Woodbury chiropractor Jonathan Tepper, were arraigned in federal court in Uniondale on mail fraud and conspiracy charges and ordered held on \$50,000 bond each. They face up to 5 years' imprisonment if convicted.

Calls left at the offices of the 20 were not returned.

At a news conference with local and federal law-enforcement officials, Dillon said the medical providers billed insurance companies for services not rendered and gave undercover agents letters stating they were disabled and unable to work because of injuries suffered in accidents. He said the accidents were on "paper only" and were filed with police as a ruse.

In some instances, Dillon said, the agents received chiropractic treatment fewer than 12 times but the chiropractors billed insurance companies for more than 100 visits.

He charged that chiropractor George Mitzman, 41, of Westbury, treated one agent 11 times and billed the insurance company for 150 visits. Another defendant, chiropractor Michael Roth, 29, with offices in Bellmore and Syosset, treated an agent once but billed for 90 visits, Dillon said.

Dillon said the four attorneys assisted the purported accident victims in fabricating phony lost-wages claims, while in fact the victims said they were working, and submitted falsified documents supporting the claims. He said the attorneys also referred victims to medical providers to obtain disability letters and advised them how to exaggerate injuries.

In one case cited by Dillon, Hempstead attorney Mitchell Rachlin, 47, was charged with collecting more than \$626,000 from his insurance carrier for a phony disability claim he filed in 1990 for injuries he sustained in an accident.

Rachlin, who claimed to be totally disabled, was shown on a videotape walking around his law office as he advised an undercover agent on how to file a claim for lost wages for a traffic accident.

On another videotape played by Dillon, Dr. Martin Lehman, 64, a Wantagh orthopedist, is shown meeting with an undercover operative who tells Lehman she was working despite being injured in an accident. "You are not working as far as insurance is concerned," Lehman is heard telling the woman. Without performing a physical examination, Lehman gave the woman a disability form, Dillon said.

Also charged were: chiropractors Robert Moore, 43, and Jay Levine, 44, with offices in Franklin Square, and their receptionist, Maureen MacPherson, 30; Rockville Centre chiropractor Joseph Huseman III, 39; Franklin Square attorney Scott Garil, 29; North Bellmore chiropractor Susan Schulman, 36; Plainview chiropractor Christopher Haas, 32; Oceanside chiropractor Jeffrey Finkelstein, 41; Lynbrook chiropractor Steven Angel, 40; Port Washington, chiropractor Charles Schnier, 45; and Robert Cannon, 59, of Massapequa, a medical-supply distributor.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD HALL FOR RECEIVING THE PLYMOUTH STATE COLLEGE'S ROBERT FROST CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN AWARD

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Donald Hall, poet, essayist, and playwright, for being the 16th recipient of Plymouth State College Robert Frost Contemporary American Award. I commend his outstanding achievement and compliment him on this well-deserved honor.

Donald is internationally known for his poetry and prose. He and his wife Jane, a late poet, too, moved to Wilmot in 1975. Their family homestead, Eagle Pond Farm, has provided him much inspiration for many of his works.

Donald was a Guggenheim fellow in 1963-1964 and 1972-1973, and poet laureate of New Hampshire from 1984 to 1989. He was elected to the National Institute and the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1989. His book of poetry, "The One Day," won the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Award the same year. In 1994, Donald received the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize.

His first book of poems, "Exiles and Marriages," was written in 1955. Among other prose works are "String Too Short To Be Saved," "Henry Moore," "Writing Well," "Their Ancient Glittering Eyes," and "Ox Cart Man." His recent works include "Old and New Poems", which was published in 1990 and "The Old Life" published in 1996.

The Frost award is given in honor of Robert Frost, a late poet laureate who taught at Plymouth Normal School in 1911-1912. The Plymouth State Alumni Association inaugurated the award in 1970 to recognize northern New Englanders who exemplified Frost's traits of individuality, hard work, humanitarianism, and devotion to the Granite State.

Mr. President, I want to congratulate Donald for his outstanding accomplishment. I am proud to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

JUMPSTART THE URBAN CLASSROOM NETWORKS

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues an opinion piece from Eric Behnamou, Chairman and CEO of 3Com Corp., regarding the Federal Communications

Commission's [FCC] May 7th decision regarding universal service and the Snowe-Rockefeller-Exon-Kerrey amendment.

While this op-ed piece speaks for itself, I think it is good to note the interest and support of business leaders for education technology and the specific initiative to link classrooms and libraries to the information superhighway. Thoughtful business leaders understand the importance of computer literacy. A California study estimated that 60 percent of the new jobs by the year 2000 will require skills possessed by only 22 percent of workers—clearly we must do better. I believe that linking up our classrooms will help a great deal.

I ask that the article from the May 7, 1997, Los Angeles Times be reprinted in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 7, 1997]

JUMP-START THE URBAN CLASSROOM NETWORKS

(By Eric A. Benhamou)

Just as cars aren't particularly useful without roads and freeways, the same is true of an information highway without well-planned onramps and offramps. This is particularly evident in our schools.

While classroom connectivity increased from 6% to 14% between 1994 and 1996, most of these networks are low-speed analog connections, the computer equivalent of unpaved roads.

President Clinton advocates connecting all classrooms to the Internet, and this message has been heard by principals, administrators and school boards anxious to have their students log on. However, this presidential mandate has been largely unfunded, with private money/state projects and volunteer efforts substituting for systemic programs. Poor schools have suffered or been relegated efforts substituting for systemic programs. Poor schools have suffered or been relegated to the slow lane or no lane.

The Snowe-Rockefeller amendment to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 corrected this deficiency by funding the necessary telecommunications infrastructure. But the Federal Communications Commission must still approve it.

This is critical if we're going to solve the problem of getting all U.S. classrooms hooked up by 2000. The amendment's plan to provide the largest hookup discounts for "have-not" schools will help jump-start connectivity. Today, 47% of schools with more than 70% of their students qualifying for federal lunch subsidies have no Internet access; only 22% of the schools where less than 11% qualify for free lunches are not hooked up. This gap must be closed.

Studies from pilot programs show higher test scores in English and math from Internet-enabled classrooms. More important, technology raises test scores more for underprivileged kids than for wealthy kids, more for kids who have interactive hands-on experience (e.g. the Internet) and more where schools invest in teacher training. Unfortunately, only 7% of urban schools mandate advanced telecommunications and networking skills training for teachers.

President Eisenhower's conception and subsequent implementation of the U.S. highway system fostered our mobile society, creating industries and jobs. President Clinton's vision of a nation of learners benefiting from the Internet offers similar return. Companies like Netscape and America OnLine are already providing jobs for American youth.

The amendment isn't perfect, but it provides for much broader and systematic introduction of networking into our schools. It earmarks \$2.25 billion annually for communications and networking equipment. The FCC commissioners should make the tough trade-offs and approve this highway construction project.●

be critical to a strong and vibrant Palestinian Government.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN S. BILLINGS, JR.

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Franklin "Bill" Billings on the occasion of his 75th birthday. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity and commemorate his distinguished service as a Federal judge.

Bill's career has been dedicated to serving the people of Vermont in a wide array of positions. He first served the Green Mountain State as assistant secretary of the Senate from 1949 to 1953. He was later selected to represent the Woodstock area as a member of the Vermont House. During his tenure, Bill was elected speaker of the Vermont General Assembly in 1963 and 1965, which were tumultuous reapportionment years for the State. In 1975, he was appointed to the Vermont Supreme Court and subsequently chosen to serve as Chief Justice. He concluded his career as the U.S. district court judge for the district of Vermont.

Throughout his efforts, Bill has remained consistently committed to standards of professionalism above reproach as well as an unwavering respect and dedication to ethics. His uncanny ability to see beyond the surface, while considering some of the most complicated legal matters, is testimony to a keen intellect.

Once again, I would like to extend my best wishes and congratulations to Judge Bill Billings. He has set an example which we should all strive to emulate.●

MEMORIAL DAY

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President and fellow Senators, on Monday May 26 our Nation observes Memorial Day; a day of remembrance for all the members of our Armed Forces who gave their lives so that our Nation could be free. Sometimes it seems as if, in our haste to address the issues of the day, we forget that the freedom we enjoy—the freedom we take for granted—was not free. Countless American soldiers, seamen, marines, and pilots paid for our freedom with their lives. On the last Monday of May each year we honor our veterans, fly the flag at half-staff, and pause to remember their sacrifice.

It is unfortunate that if you look in the newspapers or watch the ads on TV, you might think that the only purpose Memorial Day serves is to announce the beginning of another summer season or the start of a new sales drive. But if you spend some time talking with veterans like those who returned from Europe, Korea, or Vietnam; if you talk with those who landed at Normandy or those who survived the Bataan Death March, you learn the real purpose of Memorial Day—to honor the men and women who gave their lives, most at a very young age—in defense of our Nation.