

my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes for continued success to the children, coaches, parents, officials, staff, and sponsors of the Northeast Peanut League.●

#### THE POLITICS OF THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I spoke on Tuesday of this week about recent findings on the technological dimension of the year 2000 computer problem. I rise today to warn of the yet unseen political dimension of the problem.

Newsweek's June 2d cover story, "The Day the World Shuts Down," offered a telling scenario in which Vice President GORE, while campaigning for President in 2000, spends all of his time trying to justify why he hadn't addressed this issue. To wit: "imagine Al Gore's spending the entire election campaign explaining why he didn't foresee the crisis."

Vice President GORE is not alone here. Imagine 4 to 500 Congressmen doing the same. Come 2000, each of us will be held accountable if we have failed to deal effectively with the "Y2K" problem. Not a single Member of Congress right now, excepting those who can successfully pass the blame, will be absolved. Both parties will face a wholesale clearing of the decks. The deluge of blame will occur in the legal community, as well. Newsweek cited a conservative estimate of 1 trillion dollars worth of litigation resulting from this crisis—more than three times the yearly cost of all civil litigation in the United States.

Make no mistake, almost all experts agree there will be no "silver bullet" fix. Correcting this problem is labor intensive and very time consuming. Millions of lines of computer code have to be reviewed and changed—in many computer languages so outdated they are foreign to younger programmers. And as Newsweek stated, the bug "affects everything from ATM's to weapons systems. Virtually every government, State, and municipality, as well as every large, midsize, and small business in the world, is going to deal with this—in fact, if they haven't started already it's just about too late."

If American families are overtaxed by the IRS, improperly charged by their creditors, denied Social Security benefits, and faced with a constantly malfunctioning civil infrastructure, the blame will fall squarely on the shoulders of their Representatives in Washington.

As Samuel Johnson observed, the prospect of hanging concentrates the mind. This prospect—the political repercussions—could finally get us up and running. We are not now. I have a first day bill, S. 22, creating a joint commission to take on the task as a national emergency. It is just that. No movement on my bill thus far. At this rate be ready to be out of a job in 2001.●

#### THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF COURTNEY WHEELER

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Courtney Wheeler of Beckley, WV, who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 29, 1997.

Courtney Wheeler was born in 1897 in Summers County, WV, the oldest of 13 children born to Thomas Joseph and Rosa Belle Berkley. She married her husband, Roy Wheeler in 1913 and the two of them had six children before he passed away in 1936. Courtney has shown tremendous courage in life in dealing with the loss of her husband at an early age and the loss of four of her children. She has been an inspiration to all who know her on how to deal with life's tragedies in a strong and graceful manner.

In addition to her six children, Courtney Wheeler has a total of 94 descendants. She has 22 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, 29 great-great grandchildren and 1 great-great-great grandchild. She has definitely been blessed with a large and loving family.

Throughout her life, Courtney has been a loving and caring person to her family and friends. She has always maintained a cheerful spirit and has been an example to all. She has been an avid gardener of both flowers and vegetables her entire life, and is known far and wide for her cooking skills. I encourage my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Courtney Wheeler on this milestone birthday.

#### THE FISCAL YEAR 1997 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION CONFERENCE REPORT AND THE FISCAL YEAR 1998 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE REPORT

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I am entering this statement into the RECORD because I am unable to return to Washington for the votes on the fiscal year 1998 supplemental appropriation conference report and the fiscal year 1998 budget resolution conference report due to my son's out-of-town college graduation today. Had I been there, I would have voted for the budget resolution and against the supplemental appropriation because of the automatic continuing resolution and other extraneous provisions in the bill.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALICE LIEBERMAN

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to pay tribute to Alice Lieberman, the mother of my former executive secretary Sylvia Nolde. Alice Lieberman is a woman of grace and strength and a role model for all ages. In testament of her service to her community and her positive impact on the youth of our Nation, I am submitting "A Senior Portrait", written by Ms. Abby Altshul. The following was written by Abby for her essay on her college admissions application to Cornell University, where she was accepted.

#### A SENIOR PORTRAIT

With Congress pushing for cuts in Medicare and the baby boomers struggling to stay young, irreverence for old age seems to be at an all time high. Fortunately, a few teenagers, who have at one point lived in Charlottesville, Virginia still hold great respect for their elders. The reason for this is Alice Lieberman, an 85-year-old Jewish grandmother who has become the matriarch for the city's Jewish community. These teens fondly remember chicken dinners at her house and Friday night services by her side at congregation Beth Israel. She had been a role model as a long-time active member of Hadassah (a Jewish women's organization), even assuming the presidency at the age of eighty. Her fifty plus year marriage to Myer Lieberman and commitment to her family has been an inspiration in this age of high divorce rates and dysfunctional families. Her care for her husband when he went to a nursing home led the way to her volunteer work at Cedars Nursing Home. Alice even influenced a girl named Abby to join her and work at the Cedars for her bat mitzvah community service project and to continue to visit the elderly friends they had made after the bat mitzvah. Alice inherited this sense of duty from her mother and passed it on to her two daughters, a teacher and a congressional aide, who continue to volunteer while retired.

For many of her "young friends" it became a threat rather than a chore to go to synagogue on Friday night and sit quietly next to her. She transmitted the comfort and tranquility she received from the prayers to Abby and anyone else who was lucky enough to be seated beside her. One of Abby's earliest memories is of sitting in services and drawing a picture of her best friend, Alice, who sat next to her. Alice still proudly displays the drawing next to Abby's senior photo in her dining room. Ever since Abby moved away two years ago, services haven't been as meaningful or enjoyable without Alice. Her devotion is an inspiration to many Jews especially the young people whom she effects.

The vitality Alice displays brings a whole new meaning to the phrase "aging gracefully." She goes everywhere and does everything on her own without fear, even after a fall a few years ago that resulted in a broken hip and landed her in a nursing home for a few weeks. She entertains often and continues to be an important part of Hadassah as head of their ongoing and most successful fundraiser. Some people use their golden years to relax and let the world serve them, but for Alice Lieberman it is a chance to imbue the next generation with motivation.●

#### RURAL DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1997

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today Senator MURKOWSKI and I introduced a bill called the Rural Telemedicine Demonstration Act of 1997.

As the Senate knows, Senator MURKOWSKI and I represent States where a good number of our constituents live in rural areas. Individuals living in States like Montana often live in counties that are underserved by specialty health care providers.

Due to new technology made possible by advances in fiber optics, it is now easier for rural citizens to be seen by specialty health care providers.

Using this technology, a person living in Culbertson, MT, who would normally drive 300 miles for specialty

medical care in Billings, can now be "seen" by a physician via telemedicine. But, in order for telemedicine systems to be a success in rural States like mine, Medicare must eventually reimburse telemedicine providers. This bill is the first step in that direction.●

**REMARKS OF FORMER SENATOR ROMAN L. HRUSKA (R-NE) AT THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN OMAHA, NE**

● Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, last Friday a distinguished former Member of the United States Senate, Roman Hruska, was honored during a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Federal courthouse to be constructed in downtown Omaha. This new Federal facility will be named the Roman L. Hruska United States Courthouse.

I had the honor of knowing Senator Hruska when I served as administrative assistant to former Congressman John Y. McCollister (R-NE), my friend and mentor, in the 1970's. Senator Hruska served on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee as its ranking member. Several of my colleagues still serving today no doubt recall Senator Hruska and his contributions to our work here in the Senate. He is still going strong at 92 years of age and continues to stay involved in the Omaha community.

Much of his work on the Senate Judiciary Committee remains with us today. Whether it was the creation of the Legal Services Corporation, revision of the Federal bankruptcy laws, reform of the Federal criminal code or amendments to the Federal antitrust laws, his imprint can be found. Senator Hruska always considered himself a work horse rather than a show horse and his numerous contributions to our Federal legal and justice system bear that out.

That is why it is so fitting that the new Federal courthouse in Omaha has been named after him. His lifelong work as a public servant and lawyer was dedicated to making our system of laws fair, just, and workable for all citizens not just a privileged few. This is especially true with the Federal judiciary. Senator Hruska worked tirelessly to ensure that the Federal court system and the judiciary would be run by people of integrity, intellect, courage, and empathy for all the people—traits that he exhibited throughout his career.

Mr. President, the new Hruska Courthouse is a welcome addition to downtown Omaha. It will meet the immediate needs of the Federal judiciary and other agencies that support the judicial system like the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Attorneys Office, U.S. Probation Service, U.S. Pretrial Service and several other Federal agencies. The complex is designed to permit future expansion if needed. It will fit the traditional solid architecture of down-

town Omaha but have new technology to meet the demands of the 21st century.

Mr. President, I ask that the remarks delivered by Senator Hruska at the groundbreaking ceremony be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

**REMARKS BY SENATOR ROMAN L. HRUSKA**

It is with great humility that I thank my friends for their many kind remarks here this afternoon. In particular, I wish to single out the graciousness of my friend Jim Exon for his selfless contribution to this special honor I receive today. I also thank Senator Kerrey for his kind remarks.

For me, there is no better way to join together my love for Nebraska, the City of Omaha, and a commitment to our system of justice and the federal judiciary than being honored by having my name associated with the new federal courthouse to be built on this site.

Throughout my many years of service in Washington, DC, my heart still remained in Omaha. As I addressed the business of the U.S. Senate, the interests of Nebraska were always foremost in my mind. Since retiring from the Senate more than twenty years ago, I have tried to continue that commitment to our community.

During my years as a public servant, I tried to follow a simple set of principles which I believe also represent the basic beliefs and feelings of my fellow Nebraskans.

I believed then and still believe in less government, not more. I believed then and still believe that the courts should defer to the legislatures in the matter of law-making. I believed then and still believe that a truly independent judiciary of the highest order of excellence is essential to enforcement of the expressed will of the majority and the protection of the fundamental rights of those in the minority. I believed then and still believe that our judicial system is the last bulwark against attacks on individual liberty and freedom.

Democracy and individual freedom are sometimes fragile things. Fortunately, they are now on the march around the world. Gratefully, they have become our birthright and will be further nurtured by this new complex.

But, the challenge remains great. Crime, breakdown of the family, corruption and civil disorder are still present in our society; even here in Omaha. We need to support actively our police, prosecutors and judges as they carry out their important responsibilities to uphold the law.

Looking at all of you assembled here and thinking about the many years I have devoted to public service, I am heartened for our future. Young leaders are emerging—many gathered here today—who will carry on the principles I believe in and who represent the best of our nation and state.

I am gratified and truly humbled by this occasion. Thank you all for being here. Thank you all for your many kindnesses and courtesies over the years. Thank you all for this wonderful honor which you have bestowed upon me.

God bless the State of Nebraska and God bless America.●

**THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the Rhode Island Historical Society on the occasion of its 175th anniversary.

Founded in 1822, the Rhode Island Historical Society was established for the purpose of rescuing artifacts and records pertaining to the history of our State and spreading the legacy of Rhode Island history. The society today represents the fourth oldest historical society in the United States and remains as one of the noble guardians of American history and culture. Over the years the society's repository of Rhode Island history and culture has grown under the stewardship of generations of knowledgeable scholars, dedicated staff, and the generosity of gracious benefactors.

From its humble beginnings, the society has served as a haven for precious artifacts which serve to record and preserve the rich history of Rhode Island. Today, we mark not only the past accomplishments of the Rhode Island Historical Society, but we pause at an exciting threshold as we embark upon the creation of Heritage Harbor.

Housed at the site of a former power plant at the head of Narragansett Bay, the historical society will lead a consortium of museums and cultural organizations in forming Heritage Harbor. The new community will bring together the stories and treasures of the Ocean State through entertainment and enlightenment. Remaining true to Rhode Island's founder Roger Williams, this new endeavor will be a lively experiment. It will teach, entertain, and inspire. The Heritage Harbor promises to bring together the diverse cultures and communities of Rhode Island to celebrate the time, traditions, and our many contributions to collective greatness of this Nation.

Mr. President, I would ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the Rhode Island Historical Society as we mark this milestone of 175 years, celebrating its legacy, both past and future.●

**TRIBUTE TO VINCENT MARCONI JR., PORTSMOUTH STUDENT, AND WINNER OF THE NATIONAL PEACE ESSAY CONTEST**

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Vincent Marconi Jr., a Portsmouth Senior High School student, on winning the first place in the State-level competition of the 10th annual National Peace Essay Contest sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace. This is certainly an accomplishment of which he should be very proud and I salute him for his achievement.

The contest, which is open to students in all American high schools, is designed to encourage serious and realistic thinking about issues of international conflict resolution. Vincent was asked to write an essay on managing and implementing peace agreements.

Vincent will receive a \$750 college scholarship and will compete for national awards of up to \$5,000. Vincent has also been invited to represent the