

have messed around with this bill because there is money in the pipeline; no one is being disadvantaged. I heard them spin that yarn for weeks.

We kid people in our part of the country about whoppers. You know the whoppers: Yes, I won this belt buckle in a rodeo riding bulls; my pickup truck's paid for. Now I heard this other whopper: There's money in the pipeline. Tell that to the folks in Grand Forks.

There is a woman living in a tent right now in Grand Forks with her family. There was a woman in the newspaper yesterday, she and her family are out of work and have been out of their home for 5 weeks living in a camper trailer, and they don't know when they are going to get back to their home and she doesn't know when she will have another job. Tell it to them, that there is money in the pipeline.

Better yet, get on a plane and go out there and try to live on that money in the pipeline. The money doesn't exist except in this bill, and the bill must get passed and must be a clean bill so this aid goes to disaster victims, and it ought to be done now. It can be done simply. I introduced a bill yesterday, and I will call it up now by unanimous consent, and if there is objection, it means the Congress will not allow a clean disaster bill to pass. If not now, when?

Let me call up a clean disaster bill where we take out the census issue and the Government shutdown issue and send this bill, as it was written by the Congress, to the President for signature.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to Calendar No. 18, H.R. 581, and that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 851, the clean disaster bill, be substituted in lieu thereof; that the bill be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. THOMAS. There is an objection. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, the Senators both know there are negotiations going on now. This performance on the floor does not help at all. Our leaders are talking to your leaders. They are working toward doing it. As a matter of fact, if you want to carry on this thing, there may be some time where you can do it this evening. The fact is, this is not the way to solve the issue. The leaders are meeting, and I object to the request.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I understand under a previous order that I have 30 minutes under my control at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, first, I rise on another topic, but I want to say to the Senator from North Dakota that I fully empathize and sympathize with him on his position. The flood about which my colleague from Illinois spoke a few minutes ago is the same flood that devastated Iowa in 1993. This Congress and the President came to the assistance of the people of Iowa in a very rapid measure. To this day, the people of Iowa talk about how rapidly the funds got out there, the Government was there to help. And the same thing should apply to any disaster anywhere. And it should apply in North Dakota also.

I want to say to my colleague from North Dakota, he is right on the mark. This legislation ought to get through. The money ought to be sent out without all these other political ramifications. So I appreciate the Senator from North Dakota. Again, his position is the correct one. We ought to get the money through here. And we should not be loading it down with political considerations.

THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY AND THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S CALL FOR THE VIGOROUS PURSUIT OF PEACE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I take the floor today with a couple of my colleagues to note a very important anniversary.

Mr. President, 34 years ago today, on June 10, 1963, President John F. Kennedy delivered a historic address at American University here in Washington, DC, regarding the need for the vigorous pursuit of peace. He declared that the United States has a critical interest in limiting the testing of nuclear weapons. We wanted to mark that occasion today by talking about the need to continue that progress and to bring to completion President Kennedy's dream and goal of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

I yield at this time to my colleague from Illinois for his unanimous-consent request and for any comments he wants to make.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you Mr. President.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following members of my staff, Thomas Faletti and Robin Gaul during the pendency of this debate.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I want to thank my colleague from Iowa, Senator HARKIN, for reminding us of this important and historic anniversary. President John Kennedy's speech to American Univer-

sity in 1963, really I think demonstrated a vision of the future which no one believed at the time was really within our reach. We expect leaders in America to challenge us, to think ahead, and to think of a different world, a better world. Certainly President Kennedy did that at American University.

In the midst of the cold war, when it was starting to heat up with nuclear missiles being built at great expense in the Soviet Union and the United States, President Kennedy challenged the United States to think of the vision of a world that was a world of peace, a world where the leaders in countries like the United States and Russia would be focusing their resources on good and positive things rather than weapons of mass destruction.

We have tried through the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to reach a milestone on the road to the total abolition of nuclear weapons. This treaty prohibits all nuclear weapons test explosions or other nuclear explosions anywhere in the world.

It is verifiable. We have a global network of monitoring facilities and on-site inspections to make sure that each country lives up to its terms.

President Bush, obviously a Republican leader, initiated a test moratorium in October 1992. President Clinton continued it, and then signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty last year, along with 125 other world leaders. It has been endorsed by the United Nations. Now it must be ratified by the United States. The Senate must put its approval on this notion that we are going to eliminate nuclear weapons testing as part of a global plan to bring real peace to this world. Forty-three other nuclear-capable countries must face that same responsibility.

Why should we do this at this point in our history? Are we not making enough progress? Do we really need this? I think the answers to these questions demonstrate why we are here on the floor speaking to this issue. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would curb nuclear weapons proliferation worldwide.

What does it mean? Not just those nations currently in possession of nuclear weapons, but those that dream—unfortunately dream—of being nuclear powers, they would be held back, too. Our monitoring devices in the test ban treaty will be at least a discouragement, if not a prohibition against their own nuclear testing to become nuclear powers, to join in some nuclear arms race at a new level different from the cold war.

There is another aspect of this that is so troubling. Fully \$1 out of every \$3 we spend each year now in the United States on what we call the nuclear weapons program is money spent to clean up the mess, the environmental degradation that is left over from our nuclear program. If we stopped the testing and put a halt to the construction of these weapons, we are going to

protect our environment, and future generations will certainly be happy to hear that. It saves taxpayer money. And, it is supported by a majority of Americans. In fact, over 80 percent of the American people think it is time for us to do this.

The U.S. nuclear arsenal has consumed about a quarter to a third of all of our defense spending since World War II. I will not recount all the dollars involved; and I am sure my colleagues will during the course of this debate. But, we have put ample resources in this program. We must be reminded over and over again of the words of President Dwight Eisenhower, no dove, our leader in World War II, who stood up and reminded us that every dollar spent on weaponry, every dollar spent in this case on nuclear weaponry, is a dollar not spent on the education of a child, on nutrition for a child at risk. These are things which should be constant reminders of the need to resume this debate.

Despite the end of the cold war and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States currently spends at least \$33 billion a year on nuclear weapons and weapons-related activity—about 13 percent of our defense budget. These costs continue even though no new warheads or bombs have been built since July 1990.

Nuclear weapons testing has stopped since September 1992. And the size of the nuclear stockpile, because of negotiations, has gone down dramatically; yet, still \$33 billion a year right up on the cash register out of the taxpayers' pockets into a nuclear program. And for what? Unfortunately, a third of it, as I said, is used for environmental cleanup. And that should be done. But so much more is being used to maintain and upgrade existing weapons and retain the capability to produce new ones.

Let us realize the vision of President Kennedy, a vision which 34 years ago challenged Americans to think beyond the current cold war in those days to the future, to a future free of nuclear weapons to a more peaceful world.

I am happy to join with my colleague from Iowa, Senator HARKIN, on the floor. And I thank him for reminding us of a commitment made of a vision expressed 34 years ago. It is time for this test ban treaty to be ratified by the United States for a safer world, for ourselves and our children.

I yield back to the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank my colleague from Illinois for his very eloquent remarks and for reminding us of just how much we are spending. Even yet today, to maintain this nuclear stockpile, the United States spends roughly \$30 billion a year. That is just about three times the amount that we are spending on all medical research at the National Institutes of Health, to find the causes and cures of things like heart disease,

cancer, and Alzheimer's, diabetes, Parkinson's disease. Three times what we are spending on this arsenal than all medical research. We are trying to come up with money for NIH.

We had a sense-of-the-Senate resolution last week—98 to 0—to support a doubling of funding for NIH. That would bring it up to about \$25 billion a year, not even up to this level. Yet we do not have the money to even get about a 4 or 5 percent increase at NIH.

I thank the Senator from Illinois for his eloquent comments.

I want to also yield to the Senator from Rhode Island for his comments on this topic and thank him for being involved in this discussion on the floor of the Senate. This is an important anniversary. It must be noted. And we must mark it as hopefully the last anniversary in this long journey to get a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

I just say to my friend from Rhode Island and my friend from Illinois, that President Kennedy during that famous speech, 34 years ago today, at American University, called for an end to nuclear testing, and then proceeded to negotiate with the then-Soviet Union and others for a ban on atmospheric testing. Four months later this Senate ratified a ban on all atmospheric testing—4 months. And then here we have been 34 years to get to a comprehensive test ban.

So if they could do that in 4 months, I would think now, certainly before the end of this year, we could bring this to a closure.

I yield to my friend and my colleague from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I thank the Senator for yielding. I commend him for his leadership on this important issue. And I also want to commend my colleague from Illinois for his very eloquent statement on this very important topic.

I join my colleagues today in urging the administration to submit the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to the Senate for its consideration and, hopefully, ratification. On this day in 1963, President John F. Kennedy delivered his famous address to the graduates of American University. He made his famous call for peace for all time. He was then searching for a solution to a tense nuclear standoff. He stated in that speech:

Today the expenditure of billions of dollars every year on weapons acquired for the purpose of making sure we never need to use them is essential to keeping the peace. But surely the acquisition of such idle stockpiles—which can only destroy and never create—is not the only, much less the most efficient means of assuring peace.

Mr. President, today we have an alternative means of assuring peace. After years of negotiations and false starts, 60 countries have approved the text of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which would prohibit all nuclear weapons test explosions or other nuclear explosions anywhere in the world.

This treaty would prevent deployment and impede the development of

these deadly weapons. It would not enter into force however until ratified by all 44 states which possess nuclear power, including the five countries which have harnessed this power to make nuclear weapons. Its comprehensiveness would reassure the 177 non-nuclear weapons states that nuclear proliferation is waning, thus eliminating the need of these states to develop their nuclear capability.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty clearly has one purpose: To end the arms race and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It seeks to accomplish its goal in an objective and fair manner.

The membership of the executive council, the treaty's principal decision-making body, will be distributed evenly throughout the world.

An international monitoring system will use scientific methods to detect and identify prohibited nuclear explosions. A network of seismic, hydroacoustic, and radionuclide monitoring stations will continuously collect and analyze data to ensure global compliance.

A consultation and clarification regime will provide state parties with the opportunity to address accusations of noncompliance before an onsite inspection is ordered. And any state party which demands a frivolous or abusive inspection may be subject to punitive measures.

How can the United States not take the lead in this cause? If we ratify this treaty, others will follow. Imagine a day when world peace is not decided by the size of nuclear stockpiles, but rather by the will and wishes of the people of the world. This treaty is the next step toward that reality.

Mr. President, in his book of several years ago, "The Good War," author Studs Terkel presented an oral history of those touched by World War II. He spoke with many individuals whose lives were shaped by the bomb. Indeed, he spoke with survivors of Hiroshima, who still do not talk about the events of August 6, 1945, without breaking down.

He spoke with an American sailor who swam in the waters of the Marshall Islands the day after a test explosion. He died of cancer before the book was published.

But perhaps Terkel's most disturbing chapter is his last, when he interviewed some children, aged 11 to 15, on a Chicago street corner in 1965.

One child, Sam, stated, "I hope I can die of old age, before the world starts THE war." Ethel then chimed in, "I wanna see if I'm gonna grow up first. I mean, I might not live to be grown up. Cause I don't know when my time is up * * * I never know if I could die overnight from the bomb or something." And finally Raymond said, "This might sound crazy, but I'd like to see a world without bombs. I mean without wars. It would be a lot bigger, the world. Maybe we could enjoy it more. Get a lot out of life, without worrying you would be blown up tomorrow."

Mr. President, generations growing up after World War II were haunted by the specter of annihilation by nuclear weapons. We now have an opportunity to rid these fears, the fears of our children, forever. The American people want this treaty. Over 80 percent of the public support its ratification. It is incumbent upon us to consider this treaty and to ratify it, to put to rest once and for all the specter of nuclear annihilation.

I yield back my time to the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank my colleague.

Mr. President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 20 minutes.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Chair.

I thank my colleague from Rhode Island again for continuing to be involved in this discussion, for his leadership in the House and now in the Senate on the total issue of arms control and especially on the issue of the test ban treaty.

Mr. President, let me continue for a little bit to talk some more about the aspects of this treaty and why it is so important that we ratify it this year.

Again, to recap, 34 years ago today, on June 10, 1963, President Kennedy made a historic speech at American University here in Washington, DC. He talked about the need for a test ban treaty to limit the number of nuclear weapons tests. Four months after that, President Kennedy negotiated with the Soviet Union, signed and secured ratification from the United States Senate for the limited test ban treaty that banned all atmospheric tests of nuclear weapons. So, since October 1963, the two nations have had no atmospheric tests of nuclear weapons.

But President Kennedy's goal was not just atmospheric tests. His goal was to ban all nuclear weapons tests. As President Kennedy said on June 10, a comprehensive test ban treaty "would check the spiraling arms race in one of its most dangerous areas. It would place the nuclear powers in a position to deal more effectively with one of the greatest hazards * * * the further spread of nuclear arms. It would increase our security; it would decrease the prospects of war." That is a quote from President Kennedy's speech at American University 34 years ago.

Mr. President, completion of a global nuclear test ban treaty negotiations has been a central nuclear arms control objective for more than 40 years. This long-awaited goal was finally won just last September, September 24, 1996, when the United States and other countries signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the CTBT as it is called, a treaty consistently supported by more than 80 percent of the American public.

Now, we in the Senate must ensure that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is ratified here in the Senate and by

43 other nuclear-capable countries so that it formally enters into force.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is a major milestone in the effort to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It would establish a permanent ban on all nuclear explosions in all environments for any purpose. It's zero-yield prohibition on nuclear tests would help to halt the development and deployment of new nuclear weapons. The treaty would also establish a far-reaching verification program that includes a global network of sophisticated seismic, hydro-acoustic, radionuclide monitoring stations, as well as on-site inspection of test sites to deter and detect violations.

I might just add here, Mr. President, one of the important reasons for getting this treaty ratified as soon as possible is that under this regime, newly emerging nations that may be wanting to develop a nuclear weapon will find it thousands of times more difficult to do so. I will not put myself in a position of saying it will be absolutely impossible, nothing is 100 percent perfect, but many of these smaller nations that may want to have a nuclear weapon are going to need a small nuclear weapon. They will need some of the latest technology in order to have it delivered in a vehicle that they have in their possession or that they might soon acquire. To do that would require testing. If they cannot do the testing, then they cannot acquire the latest technology in nuclear weapon design and construction.

Mr. President, in 1991, the Soviet Union announced a unilateral nuclear weapons test moratorium. In 1992, the House and Senate passed legislation establishing a 9-month U.S. moratorium with restrictions on the number and purpose of any further U.S. tests and a prohibition on U.S. tests after September 30, 1996, unless another nation conducts a test.

In 1993, President Clinton, with advice from the armed services, the nuclear weapons laboratories, and the Energy Department, determined that the U.S. nuclear arsenal was safe and reliable without further testing. On July 3 of that year, he announced he would extend the test moratorium and agree to begin multilateral test ban negotiations in January of 1994.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was negotiated over more than 2 years at the 61-nation Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. A key turning point occurred in 1995, when our Nation's leading nuclear weapons scientific advisors concluded that our nuclear weapons stockpile is safe and reliable and that even low-yield weapons tests are unnecessary, even the so-called safety tests intended to guard against defects that could lead to accidental warhead detonations.

Spurred by the independent JASON scientific group's report that the United States nuclear arsenal is safe and reliable without testing, and spurred further by the international

outcry when the French resumed nuclear testing after a 3-year hiatus, the United States and France then adopted a zero-yield test ban position in the nuclear weapons test ban talks.

So, by August 1996, the negotiations produced a final nuclear weapons test ban treaty text supported by all countries except one, all countries except India, and India sought to include in the treaty a timetable for eliminating all nuclear weapons and, again, India would find its own nuclear weapons development program limited by a ban on testing. So, to overcome one nation's opposition, Australia proposed—and more than 100 other countries supported—a resolution endorsing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a zero-yield test ban, which was submitted to the U.N. General Assembly and passed by the overwhelming margin of 158-3 on September 10, 1996.

Now, for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to formally enter into force, it must be ratified by 44 named signatory nations, including the five declared nuclear weapons states and the three undeclared nuclear weapons states—India, Israel, and Pakistan. The U.S. ratification requires, of course, a two-thirds vote by the U.S. Senate. However, until the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty does enter into force, all signatories, including the United States, are bound by article XVIII of the Vienna Convention on Treaties not to undertake any action that violates the purpose or intent of the treaty. In other words, the signatory nations shall not test nuclear weapons.

That is sort of the recent history. Now, what is the next step? Well, several key steps must now be taken. Before the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty can be considered by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the full Senate, the Clinton administration must submit the articles of ratification and must reach agreement with the Senate leadership to begin formal consideration of the treaty. The treaty must also become a priority for the administration and for the U.S. Senate. The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate and the Senate in its whole must then proceed with a thorough examination of the treaty and to vote on it. In the end, I believe the Senate will agree that ratification of the treaty is in our country's national security interests just as President Kennedy said 34 years ago today.

The Senator from Illinois mentioned that conservatively we are spending about \$30 billion a year now to maintain our nuclear stockpile. I wondered how much we had spent over the intervening years. It turns out that from right after the end of World War II until now, the United States has spent more than \$300 billion—that is billion with a "b"—\$300 billion, about a third of a trillion dollars, for nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons materials. That does not include the cost of all the delivery vehicles—that is, all of the missiles, the silos we build, the Minutemans and the Titans—and it does

not include the cost of all the B-52 bombers, the B-47 bombers, the B-2 bombers, and the B-1 bombers. It does not include that. It does not include the cost of all the submarines, all the Polaris and later the Trident submarines. That probably would come to hundreds of billions more. I am talking just about nuclear weapons material alone, and the weapons themselves—\$300 billion approximately that we have spent, and now about \$30 billion a year. As I mentioned earlier, Mr. President, that is 2½ times what we are spending on all medical research in the National Institutes of Health. We are spending 2½ times every year to maintain the nuclear stockpile than we are spending on all biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health. That is not right, and that is why it is time to conclude the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

President Kennedy said 34 years ago today that the negotiations for a ban on above-ground nuclear tests were in sight, and he implored the Nation and the international community to bring that treaty to a conclusion. As I said, 4 months later, the agreement was reached and the atmospheric test ban treaty became a reality—in just 4 months at the height of the cold war.

The Soviet Union no longer exists. We have relations with Russia, open relations. We visit their military establishments; they visit ours. We now have an agreement where they will be an adviser to NATO. Well, now it is time for us to conclude the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. It has been around a long time. Now we are at the point where we can bring it to its final conclusion.

President Clinton must adopt the same attitude that President Kennedy adopted in 1963. He must insist on a quick closure, to make it a top priority of his administration to get the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty ratified by the Senate this year. It is in our best interests. It would help secure our planet from nuclear threats. It would go a long way toward ensuring that newly emerging nations do not get their hands on the nuclear trigger and would begin the process of getting rid of, over a period of time, the nuclear stockpiles that we have and saving all of that money that we are now spending and, hopefully, putting that money into important endeavors such as medical research.

Well, the end is in sight. We soon can have in hand a comprehensive ban on all nuclear weapons tests.

Mr. President, sometimes it boggles the mind to think of how many nuclear tests we have had in the past. Nuclear tests worldwide, underground tests, 1,517, with the United States doing 815, the old Soviet Union doing 496, France doing 160, Britain 24, China 22, and India 1.

Atmospheric testing: 528 atmospheric tests prior to 1963, with the United States doing 215, the Soviet Union doing 219, France doing 50, Britain, 21, and China, 23. Total, all tests: 2,046.

A sad, sad chapter in the history of humankind; a terrible toll that it has taken not only economically from America and other countries by what we have spent, but I think it has taken a terrible toll environmentally.

Much of the money that we spend now through the Department of Energy for our nuclear weapons stockpile is spent on cleaning up the mess that was made, first, through the production of nuclear materials; second, through the refining of these nuclear materials, and the processing; third, through the storage; and, of course, fourth, through the underground testing.

So we are spending today, and we will continue to spend in our lifetimes, billions of dollars just to clean up the mess that has been made.

There is another mess that has been made that we are paying for dearly. All those atmospheric tests that I mentioned—528 of them—each and every one of those produced in the atmosphere large amounts of plutonium and other toxic materials. I have seen estimates that tons of plutonium were released during all of these tests into the atmosphere, in the food chain, and in sea life. The half-life of plutonium is tens of thousands of years. And, yet, we know it is one of the most carcinogenic materials known to mankind. One microscopic piece of plutonium can cause cancer.

Who knows how much plutonium is embedded into the ground and into the soils from the underground tests, how much of that plutonium may find itself to underground aquifers later on in the evolution of our planet?

We are paying a terrible price for this sad chapter of our history. We shouldn't pay the price any longer. Now is the time to end testing once and for all and close the books on it.

I call upon President Clinton to make this a priority of his administration this year. I call upon the majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate to make it a priority for the U.S. Senate this year that we debate and vote on the comprehensive test ban treaty. I call upon the chairman and the vice chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as soon as the President sends this down, to take it up, to investigate it, to debate it fully, and to vote on it and report it to the floor of the Senate.

This must be a priority. We must do it this year. Let's make this 34th anniversary of President Kennedy's speech at American University the last anniversary before we have a completion of what he called a ban on all nuclear testing.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to join with my friend, the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN], in marking the anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's historic speech on nuclear disarmament. It was in that speech, given June 10, 1963, at American University, that President Kennedy announced the initiation of negotiations for a comprehensive ban on

nuclear tests. I am pleased to see that now, 34 years later, a comprehensive test ban is on the verge of becoming reality.

I am a strong supporter of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] as a way to curtail nuclear proliferation. This treaty, once it is ratified by the 44 actual or potential nuclear powers, will ban all nuclear explosions no matter how small. In 1993, I cosponsored legislation that extended our moratorium on nuclear tests and called on the United States to end all testing by the year 1996. That bill passed and the United States' unilateral move to stop testing has shown our commitment to a worldwide ban on nuclear explosions. As we all know, the CTBT won approval in the U.N. General Assembly last September and, just days after the U.N. vote, President Clinton signed the treaty on behalf of the United States. More than 100 other nuclear and non-nuclear states have also signed the CTBT.

Mr. President, the CTBT will act as an essential complement to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and will help end the threat of nuclear war. By prohibiting nonnuclear states from developing atomic weapons, the Non-Proliferation Treaty has greatly enhanced global security since it was first signed back in 1968. The CTBT, by prohibiting nuclear testing, will provide further assurance that no additional states will develop nuclear weapons. The world will undoubtedly be a safer place once all nuclear explosions, even underground ones, are permanently outlawed.

Since President Kennedy first initiated test ban negotiations, the United States has taken the leading role in ending nuclear testing. We must maintain this momentum. I urge the President to submit the CTBT to the Senate for its advice and consent at the earliest possible date and then I would hope the Foreign Relations Committee would take it up for consideration soon thereafter. The United States should continue its leadership by ratifying the CTBT. We should demonstrate that our commitment to a nuclear test ban is as strong as ever.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to join my colleagues today in marking the 34th anniversary of President Kennedy's historic call for negotiations aimed at reducing the risk of nuclear war.

President Kennedy's June 10, 1963, address at American University marked the beginning of serious international efforts to limit the nuclear arms race and to avert the nightmarish possibility of a nuclear war. His initiative resulted a few months later in the Limited Test Ban Treaty, which brought about the first pause in the nuclear powers' efforts to construct bigger, better, and more nuclear weapons.

It's worth noting that President Kennedy's objectives were more ambitious. He had hoped to enact a comprehensive nuclear test ban, but was unable to win agreement for such a bold step. Now,

more than three decades later, we have an opportunity to realize this objective.

Following several years of negotiations in the U.N. Conference on Disarmament, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] was completed and opened for signature in September 1996. Since then, over 140 countries have signed the document, including all five declared nuclear weapons states. For the treaty to enter into force, 44 key signatories, including the United States, must ratify the agreement prior to September 1998.

Mr. President, over the past few years I have had the privilege of participating on a steering committee of a project organized by the Henry L. Stimson Center on Eliminating Weapons of Mass Destruction. The objective of the group, which included such authorities on foreign policy and national security as Gen. Andrew Goodpaster and Ambassador Paul Nitze, was to consider concrete measures the United States could undertake to work toward the long-term goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. In our third and final report, released in March, we laid out several steps President Clinton and Congress can take now to ensure that future generations are safe from the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction. Ratification of the CTBT was one of the three most urgent measures we recommended.

Enactment of a comprehensive test ban would do more to stem proliferation and reduce the nuclear threat than any other action we could take at this time. The details of the CTBT are technical and complex but the effect of the treaty is pure and simple: it would ban all nuclear test explosions. Not only would this constrain the development of more complex weapons but it would also protect our environment.

The United States already has a moratorium in effect on nuclear weapons tests and has not conducted such a test since 1992. It's time to make this moratorium permanent and ensure that others follow suit.

The administration has indicated its intent to present the CTBT to the Senate for advice and consent. However, to date it has not done so. I appreciate that the treaty is likely to be controversial in some quarters and that the Senate has only recently concluded a hotly contested debate on another important arms control treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention [CWC]. However, one of the problems we faced with the CWC was that it was not brought before the Senate as quickly as it could have been. For that and other reasons, we found ourselves in late April facing a deadline affecting our participation in the treaty.

Let's not put ourselves in that position again. Let's begin the debate on the treaty now so that our decision on ratification—which I fervently hope will be a positive one—can serve as a signal of encouragement to other countries.

Thirty-four years ago today, President Kennedy called on us to pause and consider the effects of a devastating nuclear conflict. He put us on a path to eliminating this threat. Let's honor his memory by fulfilling one of his grandest objectives. Let's act on and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. 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 Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

GREAT OUTDOORS WEEK

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to chat a little bit about recreation in America today and announce that Great Outdoors Week for 1997 began on Monday of this week.

From America's vast forests to her mighty rivers, to her majestic mountains, plains, and valleys, there is the recognition that this Nation is truly blessed with national and natural beauty beyond comparison. As a consequence, it is no wonder that our Nation and our national consciousness are defined in no small part by the great outdoors that we all enjoy.

Coming from my State of Alaska—which is, at least as far as I am concerned, America's premier outdoor State—I have lived near and experienced some of nature's greatest handiwork. I have fished, hunted, sailed, hiked, and camped in probably the best places on Earth.

So it is with great pleasure that I come before my colleagues to announce Great Outdoors Week for 1997.

The recreation community is in Washington this week to host a number of activities to remind those of us inside the beltway that outdoor recreation is a good thing for people, for communities, for the economy, and for conservation. Great Outdoors Week will bring together many people and groups who really care about America's great outdoors. Federal, State, and local officials, recreation enthusiasts, outdoor media, recreation associations, and the recreation industry will all take part in the events scheduled for this week.

I met last night with the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association—the manufacturers and the suppliers of recreation vehicles. There were some 250 to 300 people in the Russell rotunda at a very, very outstanding reception to kick off Great Outdoors Week for 1997.

Mr. President, as an outdoorsman and chairman of the Senate committee with responsibility for our Nation's public lands, I am also going to take an

active role in the other events scheduled for this week.

The work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources touches the lives of Americans in many ways but few ways more visible than in our oversight of the Nation's great outdoors. Great Outdoors Week really gives us an opportunity to focus on the value of recreation in our lives, and how we can do a better job of encouraging people of all ages to enjoy America's natural and national splendor.

The great outdoors is the main focus of our national recreation initiative. The acronym is REC, and it stands for three goals: reinvigorate, enhance, and conserve.

To reinvigorate and rebuild our national parks, forests, and other Federal lands that provide diverse recreation opportunities.

To enhance the visits Americans make to our public land legacy through improved access, facilities, and services.

To conserve America's natural resources that provide recreation opportunities, particularly through wildlife habitat restoration and protection. It also includes areas in our urban centers with strategies to protect open space, rivers, lakes, and to link parks and trails.

Last year, we passed the largest parks and conservation public lands bill that has passed this body since the 1940's. Containing 119 pieces of legislation, the bill increased park boundaries, designated historical trails and wild and scenic rivers, protected sensitive lands, and benefited virtually every State in this Nation.

It also protected the Presidio in San Francisco, one of the finest recreation areas in our country, by establishing a new management system which takes advantage of private sector expertise, contribution, and finance.

It will also create the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission. This is a nine-member panel which will examine the demand for recreation at federally managed lakes and reservoirs and help develop plans with the private sector to maximize recreational opportunities. A report is due next year, and we may write legislation to increase opportunities in this area.

Thankfully, after I wrote to the President last week, he told me that he will name the remaining four members of the nine-member commission this week so that they can get down to work.

On April 25 of this year, we held a seminar on outdoor recreation trends and benefits.

This Wednesday we will hold an oversight hearing on the stateside program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We will hold additional oversight hearings on other aspects of the outdoor recreation capabilities. At least one of them will be a field hearing out West. The committee report, hopefully, will follow.

Putting our heads together, we can decide what the Federal Government