

written testament to his work to foster a sense of community in Missoula. Then in 1995 a second work, "The Good City and the Good Life," was published, again to an outstanding reception.

Many were surprised last spring when Dan stepped down as mayor to accept a new challenge as head of the Center for the Rocky Mountain West at The University of Montana. To those of us who know him, however, the move is simply the progression of Dan's unique talents as a leader. It is now his time to share the knowledge of the past years with rest of America, and a time to learn anew.

This past month President Clinton recognized the contributions of Dan Kemmis, not only to Missoula, but to communities throughout America, by awarding him the National Endowment for the Humanities' Charles Frankle Prize. I cannot think of an individual more deserving of the honor. Thoughtful and compassionate, a true visionary and thinker, Dan is one of Montana's treasures and an American leader.

In his prose as in his life, Dan has worked to shape the politics of the future, building consensus, and bringing people together, absent the rhetoric of the past that simply seeks to divide. As President Clinton so eloquently noted, he, " * * * is a welcome and convincing voice against cynicism and social divisiveness." For this alone, we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

I am honored to call Dan Kemmis a friend, and I join with all Montanans in expressing our thanks for his many years of service and congratulations upon receiving this most prestigious award.

BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation. This bill is about ensuring that women receive equitable treatment in our Nation's health care system. It puts the care of grandmothers, mothers, and daughters with breast cancer before the financial interests of insurance companies.

One of every eight women in America will develop breast cancer. These women will undergo breast cancer treatments such as mastectomies or lymph node removal. Insurance companies know they can cut costs and increase profits if they give skimpy care to these women. Some insurance plans send women home just hours after breast cancer surgery with patients groggy from anesthesia, in pain and with drainage tubes still in place. Other plans require outpatient mastectomies.

The American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association say that most patients are not ready to be sent home a few hours after surgery. It is just not good medicine. I believe

these doctors, who want to do the right thing and give the right care, should not be discouraged or penalized for not following the insurance company's guidelines.

This legislation ensures that women with breast cancer receive the medical attention they need and deserve. The bill ensures that health plans which provide medical and surgical benefits for the treatment of breast cancer provide a minimum length of stay of 48 hours for patients undergoing mastectomies and 24 hours for those undergoing lymph node removals. Under this bill, patients and their physicians—not insurance companies—can determine if a shorter period of hospital stay is appropriate.

So, I salute the authors of this bill, but I also salute the women, the doctors, and the medical facilities that organized to challenge these unfair practices. I want to see managed care, not mandated care. And I don't want to see doctors managed. There is a fundamental distinction. We have to start getting our priorities straight and end the needless pain and neglect of women with breast cancer. This bill is a step in the right direction.

PAUL TSONGAS

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about Paul Tsongas, who lost his battle against cancer on Saturday. We have all lost a great friend; the Nation has lost an extraordinary American who defined the concept of public service and whose courage and conviction set an example for each and every one of us.

Paul was the son of Greek immigrants in Lowell, MA. He worked in his father's drycleaning business, and served in the Peace Corps, as a Lowell city councilor, as a Middlesex county commissioner, as a U.S. Congressman, and as a U.S. Senator in the seat that I am now honored to occupy.

Paul was able to achieve so much in his life because no matter where he went, no matter what office he held, he never left the people of Lowell. He instinctively understood not only their problems but also how government could help provide some of the solutions which were necessary to resolve them.

In 1992, when George Bush looked unbeatable, Paul Tsongas ran for the Democratic Presidential nomination because he knew his ideas for our future were better.

We must not forget the timeless principles for which Paul Tsongas fought throughout his career in elective office: balancing the Federal budget and establishing sound fiscal principles for the Federal Government, investing in our country and our children, and building our economy so future generations can attain the dreams which seem to elude us today.

Although Paul did not win the nomination, he became the catalyst who turned the national spotlight on our

fiscal policies and changed the political dialog in the United States forever.

After the campaign, Paul Tsongas joined with Warren Rudman and Pete Peterson to found the Concord Coalition to promote fiscal responsibility. This organization again and again has drawn national attention to our Nation's fiscal agenda.

Since the 1992 Presidential campaign, we have cut the Federal budget deficit by more than half. The question in Washington is no longer "Can we balance the budget?," but "How soon can we do so?" Much of the progress we have made can be attributed to Paul Tsongas and his economic call to arms.

The rebuilt, reinvigorated city of Lowell, MA is another long-lasting memorial to Paul. He as much or more than any other person shepherded the revitalization program through the Congress, and by seeing and breathing life into a local pride and spirit that were still alive, he transformed a run-down mill town into an international destination with an amazing story to tell and show visitors from near and far.

Paul Tsongas' accomplishments only explain part of what made him so extraordinary. There is no way to explain the impact on others of his decency, integrity, and courage. But that impact was real and pronounced.

In 1983, he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The next year he retired from the Senate in order to spend more time with his wife Niki, and his three daughters, Ashley, Katina, and Molly. He successfully battled cancer for over a decade with a sense of grace and a strength of character that are remarkable.

It is terribly hard to acknowledge the death of such a person. Paul will be greatly and genuinely missed because he was greatly and genuinely loved. That is a compliment to which all of us can aspire when we leave this Earth. But Paul's life took him a step beyond even that status among his family and friends and all who know or observed him in his public service.

We can say truthfully and appreciatively that we are better people because of the example Paul Tsongas set during his life. In that way, he not only improved the lives of many in very direct ways, he will continue to live on as an inspiration to us.

We will miss him, but we are comforted by what he has given to us.

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE SCHOOLS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. 1, the Safe and Affordable Schools Act. I am pleased Senator COVERDELL has introduced this important legislation which will provide our children with an affordable, quality education. By making this bill the first bill of the 105th Congress, it demonstrates to the American people the importance this Senate has placed on the education of our children.

I would like to comment on a very important provision contained in this bill which will make higher education more affordable. For the past several years, I have worked to allow the earnings invested in State-sponsored tuition savings accounts to grow tax-free when used for higher education expenses. This bill also will cover room and board cost. These changes will help families offset the rising cost of education by rewarding those who save.

For the past several years, I have worked to eliminate the tax on education savings. In 1994, I first introduced S. 1787, to make a family's investment earnings tax-free when invested in a State tuition savings plan. Again, in the 104th Congress, I introduced a similar bill, S. 386. Both bills were endorsed by the National Association of State Treasurers and their College Savings Plan Network, which represents the individual State programs.

On July 9, 1996, Congress passed many of the reforms proposed in S. 386, as part of the Small Business Tax Relief Act of 1996. This legislation was signed into law by the President on August 20, 1996.

While we made important gains last year, we need to finish what we started and fully exempt investment income from taxation. This legislation does that. It also expands the definition of qualified education expense to include room and board. Such costs make up nearly 50 percent of annual college expenses.

The facts are clear; education costs are outpacing wage growth and have created a barrier for students wanting to attend college. According to the General Accounting Office, tuition costs at a 4-year public university rose 234 percent between 1980-94. During this same period, median household income rose only 84 percent. It is no wonder fewer families can afford to send their children to college without financial assistance.

As tuition costs continue to increase, so does the need for assistance. In 1990, over 56 percent of all students accepted some form of financial assistance.

Today, it is increasingly common for students to study now, and pay later. In fact, more students than ever are forced to bear additional loan costs in order to receive an education. In 1994, Federal education loan volume rose by 57 percent from the previous year. On top of that, students have increased the size of their loan burden by an average of 28 percent.

So, not only are more students taking out more loans, they are taking out bigger loans as well. This year, nearly half of college graduates hit the pavement with their diplomas in one hand and a stack of loan repayment books in the other.

I believe we need to reverse this trend by boosting savings and helping families meet the education needs of their children before they enter college. If we continue to ignore this problem, more and more children will be

forced to burden themselves with an increasing debt load when they go in search of their first job. This can be avoided with passage of S. 1.

Mr. President, in an effort to build on the accomplishments of last year, I look forward to working with Senator COVERDELL, the sponsor of this legislation, and the Senate Labor and Finance Committees to help families meet the rising cost of higher education.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12 noon having arrived, the Senate will now go into executive session and proceed to the consideration of the nomination of Madeleine Albright to be Secretary of State.

NOMINATION OF MADELEINE KORBEL ALBRIGHT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report Executive Calendar No. 1.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Madeleine Korbel Albright, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, am I correct there is a 2-hour time agreement on the nomination?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair. I yield myself such time as I may require.

Mr. President, today the Senate will fulfill its constitutional duty on the nomination of Madeleine Albright to serve as Secretary of State of the United States. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations met for more than 6 hours on January 8, to consider this nomination. During that hearing, the committee heard from then Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who presented Ambassador Albright, and I think that is the first time in history that an outgoing Secretary has presented to a committee the nominee to succeed him. In any case, Secretary Christopher presented her, and the nominee, Mrs. Albright, was questioned extensively by all members of the committee on a broad range of national security issues.

At the conclusion of the hearing, it was agreed to keep the record open until the close of business on January 10, so Senators could submit written questions to the nominee. And twelve

Senators did submit more than 200 such questions, all of which were answered in writing by Ambassador Albright.

The committee still has an outstanding document request concerning Somalia, and we fully expect that the administration will cooperate and comply with that request, as the administration has promised to do.

In any case, this past Monday, January 20, after members had spent several days examining the written responses to questions, the committee met in a business meeting to consider the nomination. By a vote of 18 to nothing, unanimously, the Committee on Foreign Relations favorably reported the Albright nomination.

There are Senators who support this nomination but who, nonetheless, have honest disagreements with Ambassador Albright on major foreign policy issues. As I mentioned in the hearing myself, while I do not doubt that Ambassador Albright is sincere, on some issues I believe her to be sincerely wrong. Some of those differences were discussed during the hearing, others in private. And we will continue to discuss them after she is confirmed, which I am certain she will be.

Notwithstanding our differences, Mrs. Albright is a lady who understands Congress. She understands the important role that Congress must play in developing U.S. foreign policy. However, my support for the nominee should in no way be misconstrued as an endorsement of the administration's conduct of foreign policy. It would be insincere of me if I pretended otherwise. Many Americans, among them myself, hope that in the area of foreign policy, the next 4 years will not produce a sequel to the travail of the first 4 years.

After 12 years of Ronald Reagan and George Bush in the White House, the United States had once again become the undisputed leader of the free world. Our friends followed us, and our enemies, the enemies of freedom, thanks to Presidents Reagan and Bush, feared and respected the United States, because we were strong. The emphasis was on our constitutional requirement as a tripartite Government, to make sure that this Nation would lead the world as a strong, strong democracy.

Many of those important gains have been neutralized by a foreign policy too often vacillating and insecure; a foreign policy that has responded to world events, rather than shaping world events. And it is quite revealing when this administration, as it often does, boasts that the invasion of Haiti was a great foreign policy accomplishment.

Mr. President, sending American soldiers into harm's way on a tiny Caribbean island with no vital interest at stake to replace one group of thugs with another group of thugs does not seem to me to be much of an accomplishment. In any event, the Haiti excursion, at last count, has cost the American taxpayers more than \$2 billion.