

Representative have initiated exchanges with DGPT/VVPT on the Telecom regulatory environment.

DEA, Customs, and State are all at work with Vietnamese counterparts in common purpose to stem illicit narcotics use and flow. The Secret Service is cooperating with Vietnamese authorities to stem crimes such as counterfeiting and credit card fraud.

USAID is helping to supply prosthetic devices and assist displaced children.

We have burgeoning cooperation in science, technology, energy, and the environment, involving some nine US Government agencies.

Military-to-military relations now consist of discussions of regional security perceptions and the exchange of visits.

Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have resettled in the US under the Orderly Departure Program or "ODP", and in January, we reached agreement on an arrangement called ROVR, under which certain Vietnamese returnees from SE Asian camps can be interviewed under ODP for possible resettlement in the US.

We are working at common purposes in multilateral fora—such as in the ASEAN regional forum to build confidence and promote peaceful resolution of disputes in the region. We also manage to discuss candidly and quietly some of the most sensitive issues of concern on each side.

Over 400 American companies last year promoted over one billion dollars in US-Vietnam trade in goods and services. US investment topped US 1.2 billion. By their association and employment by US companies, thousands of eager young Vietnamese are learning the way we think and do business in a market economy.

Finally, a Secretary Rubin and Finance Minister Hung this morning signed a significant debt agreement, overcoming this major obstacle to advancing our economic relations.

THE CHALLENGES

These developments should not be seen as fragile, but challenges to developing the kind of friendly, constructive relationship we envisage between Vietnam and the United States remain clear and formidable. We must overcome residual wariness, animosities and distrust in both countries. Vietnamese must trust that we have come with good will, have no ulterior motives or conspiracies to subvert or overthrow their system, and recognize that American economic activities support their own "DOI MOI" or renovation policy. Americans must recognize the extraordinary efforts Vietnam is making to help us in accounting for the missing from the war; continuing suspicion is misplaced. We must all put the past to rest and concentrate on the challenges and opportunities of the present and future.

I have noticed and welcomed the greater openness and diversity of Vietnam's society today than when I arrived. There is a commitment to developing the rule of law. The National Assembly and locally elected Peoples' Councils gradually are gaining stature as deliberative, representative bodies. I have observed more candid public and private debate on the burning issues of the day, and expansion of the amount and kinds of information available domestically and from abroad. There is a vibrant artistic scene, and the government has arrived at a formula for access to internet, albeit controlled. Private citizens are allowed to worship in their faith, have more latitude to make their own choices, and are travelling abroad for business and pleasure in increasing numbers. The result is a society taking on increasing complexity and verve.

Continuing and expanding these trends will help Vietnam's long term stability, eco-

nomics health and growth, and its ability to take full advantage of the genius of its people.

We can contribute positively to that process. Vietnam's dramatic change from a centrally controlled economy to rule of law and a market economy is still a work in progress. Vietnam's society will ultimately be shaped by economic growth, education, access to information including through a free press, extended interaction with the rest of the world, and, most importantly, its own culture and history.

To this end, we must get to know each other and be candid about our perceptions one of the other, always in a spirit of mutual respect and tolerance. Honest words may not always be so welcome, but it is important for each to understand what the other is about, what its values are, what its principles are, what it stands for; while tolerating valid differences in approach.

Finally, we are challenged to work in partnership to conclude economic normalization (a comprehensive trade agreement; MFN, EXIM, OPIC, and TDA) and a civil aviation agreement so that our societies can enjoy the kind of extensive links of which two such culturally rich societies are capable.

For us to realize the full potential of our relationship, Vietnam is challenged to move briskly to fulfill its self-announced policy goal of establishing a market economy; to this end, I would suggest the following:

(1) Rapid reform of the State-owned enterprise system, which currently sustains inefficient, uncompetitive enterprises, often oriented to import-substitution, and which diverts both domestic and foreign investment from potentially more productive uses. Effective equitization of State-owned enterprises would create the basis for a stock market, the necessary mechanism for realizing Vietnam's potential to mobilize its own domestic savings and absorb the considerable amount of portfolio investment available from abroad.

(2) Create a genuinely level domestic playing field for Vietnam's multisector economy, including equal encouragement of the private sector in which most new employment and growth has occurred.

(3) Open the trading and investment systems to require Vietnam's economy to learn competitiveness, perhaps the hard way, but looking to the long term, to avoid falling further behind its neighbors and putting at risk continued foreign investment.

(4) Accelerate opening of the agricultural sector to foreign investment, and liberalize the rice export market. Eliminating the state sector middlemen and their rents would raise income to the farmers from rice perhaps by 20 percent, and help curb the huge 30 percent losses to pests, rodents, spoilage and poor transportation which occur now because of the current export system. In one stroke such changes would raise rural incomes for the eighty percent of all Vietnamese who live in rural areas, reduce the rural-urban gap, and curb the dislocations resulting from urban migration.

(5) Accelerate reform of the financial system—including making available equity credit and credit for export financing.

(6) Finally, make the environment for foreign business more hospitable, transparent, and objective with clear avenues for dispute resolution.

THE POTENTIAL

Marking clearly Vietnam's intentions in these directions would accelerate conclusion of the US-Vietnam Trade Agreement and, through, MFN, provide Vietnam access to the huge US market for Vietnamese goods and trade—a prerequisite for getting on the fast track to "tiger status"—and pave the

way for another of Vietnam's avowed policy goals, accelerated entry into WTO. The complementarity of the US and Vietnamese Economies would ensure rapid growth of bilateral trade and investment, benefitting both sides; the US would certainly become one of the major investors in Vietnam's economic and human resource development.

We can anticipate increasing consonance in our strategic views of Vietnam integrates into ASEAN. There are generally no major disagreements in our respective national interests. The basis for cooperative efforts to seek peaceful solutions to transnational and other problems in the region already exists.

1.5 million Vietnamese-Americans ensure growing human contacts between our two countries. The opportunities for rich cultural, educational, scientific and technological exchange between our dynamic societies will inexorably be enhanced.

Finally, the spirits of our two countries can overcome the anguish of the past and we can enjoy the friendly, constructive relationship which our two peoples deserve.

I invite you all to share in such a vision. With the good will and commitment by people such as yourselves, a strong partnership between Vietnam and the United States is not just possible. It becomes probable.

Thank you.●

BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today the Budget Committee is scheduled to report out the budget reconciliation spending bill. Unfortunately, I was unable to be present for the final vote, but had I been here I would have voted "aye."

Several months ago I made a commitment to the graduating class at North Seattle Community College that I would be honored to be their 1997 commencement speaker. This commitment was extremely important to me and the graduating class, I simply could not back out at the last minute. Today's Budget Committee mark up was not finalized until last night.

I am extremely troubled by some of the provisions within the reconciliation package as I believe that they violate the bipartisan balanced budget agreement that was recently adopted. I am also disappointed that the committee will not have final legislative language and final CBO numbers on parts of the Finance Committee sections. It is difficult to understand why the leadership is in such a rush to complete action on major changes to Medicare and Medicaid. This rush to bring this bill to the floor does jeopardize our efforts to enact a balanced budget.

As we all know the Budget Committee cannot amend the reconciliation legislation. This will be done on the floor next week. At that time I will be supporting amendments that ensure this package is in compliance with the agreement and that it does not violate our commitment to our Nation's senior citizens and our children. We must seize on this unique opportunity to balance the budget, reform Medicare and expand health benefits for children. Unfortunately, as it stands now it does not appear that the current reconciliation language will achieve these goals.

Today's action by the Budget Committee is an important step in the process which is why I would have voted to report the measure to the full Senate. This does not mean that the package is one I will support when it reaches the floor. I am simply acting to move us closer to achieving a balanced budget.

I am disappointed that this legislation does violate the agreement that we worked so hard to achieve. But, I am hopeful that significant improvements will be made on the floor and that we can sent to the President a bill that he can sign.●

COPYRIGHT TERM EXTENSION ACT OF 1997

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today, I rise to express my support for the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1997. This legislation enjoyed unanimous support from members of the Judiciary Committee and I am hopeful the full Senate will share our views.

In the area of copyrights, patents, and other sources of intellectual property, our Nation is now at a tremendous competitive disadvantage in the global marketplace. Despite the fact the United States is the worldwide leader in intellectual property production, American authors, musicians, filmmakers, and other creative artists will not get their fair share of royalties due to them. Simply stated, U.S. copyright law protects the life of the author plus 50 years. In the European Union [EU], however, copyright terms cover life plus 70 years. Here lies the problem.

Four years ago the European Union issued a directive mandating member countries to implement a copyright term of protection equal to the life of the author plus 70 years by July 1, 1995. Currently eight countries in the EU have complied with this policy and many others are following suit.

With the advent of the Internet, digital communications, increased satellite technology, and other communications devices, the longevity of creative works has dramatically increased. Now anyone in the world can access and use an American work with merely a click of a finger. Because of these high-technology machines, the United States continues to see dramatic rises in illegal duplication cases and millions of dollars lost.

The Copyright Term Extension Act will reverse this disturbing trend by

putting Americans at an equal footing with the rest of the world. This important legislation gives U.S. copyright owners parity with the European Union by adopting a life plus 70 year term. I strongly feel this act will help balance the inadequacies that currently exist between the United States and the European Union.●

AMENDING SECTION 2118 OF THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 1992

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 82, H.R. 363.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 363) to amend section 2118 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to extend the electric and magnetic fields research and public information dissemination program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 363) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORITY FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE TO REPORT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until the hour of 12 o'clock midnight tonight for the Finance Committee to file an original bill and written report.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I believe we are waiting for clearance from the minority, so I am sure in a moment or two we can conclude the session of the Senate today, and I will proceed to act as acting leader in concluding the closing requests.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1997

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10 a.m. on Monday, June 23d. Further, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests for the morning hour be granted and the Senate then be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes with the following exceptions: Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, 60 minutes, from the hour of 10 to 11 o'clock; Senator THOMAS, or his designee, 60 minutes, from the hour of 11 to 12 o'clock.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I further ask unanimous consent that at the hour of 12 noon, the Senate proceed to consideration of S. 947, the budget reconciliation bill.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MURKOWSKI. For the information of all Senators, Monday the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 12 noon. By previous consent, at 12 o'clock the Senate will begin consideration of S. 947, the budget reconciliation bill. As previously announced, all votes ordered with respect to that bill on Monday will be stacked to occur on Tuesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m. Therefore, rollcall votes will occur beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday or very close thereafter, as the majority leader announced Thursday evening.

There is a lot of work to be done prior to the Senate adjourning for the Fourth of July recess. Therefore, Senators' cooperation in scheduling of floor action would be appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M., MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1997

Mr. MURKOWSKI. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:32 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 23, 1997, at 10 a.m.