

Jr., and Preston. Roscoe, Jr., director of the Midlands Marine Institute, a foundation for troubled youth, is married to the former Eva Rakes, and has two children, Renaldo and Asia. Preston is a well-known carpenter in the Columbia area, most noted for his woodwork.

Social activism has appropriately been the hallmark of Reverend Wilson's pastoral career. During the early civil rights movement, he worked to peacefully integrate public health facilities such as the Crafts-Farrow Mental Hospital and the Bryan S. Dorn Veterans Hospital. Saint John Baptist Church, which has a large outreach ministry, runs a progressive preschool serving approximately 100 children between the ages of 3 and 5 years old. This preschool program has been an enormous success. Its pupils begin first grade with strong skills and high confidence.

In the little free time he has, Reverend Wilson enjoys the outdoors. He loves to hunt and fish and occasionally returns to Texas to visit family. It is at home in Columbia, though, where he indulges his true passion, gardening. He says that tending his roses helps him to focus on the important things. It is this care and focus which has made him such a successful pastor. He tends his congregation like his rose bed. Saint John Baptist Church will dearly miss Reverend Wilson though his work with the church and the community will undoubtedly continue. All of us in South Carolina are very grateful for this Texas transplant. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors.●

#### RURAL CREDIT NEEDS

● Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I address today an issue of significant importance to my home State of Utah. As you know, the State of Utah is largely rural. Of 29 counties in the State of Utah, 25 are classified as rural by the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA]. For this reason, I have a keen interest in rural issues in general and, as a member of the banking committee, rural credit issues in particular.

I have read with interest the recent reports from the Rural Policy Research Institute [RUPRI], the General Accounting Office [GAO], and the USDA on rural credit needs. I have also reviewed the proceedings of the Kansas City Fed's conference on "Financing Rural America." These documents present no surprises for those of us who represent rural areas. While each study approaches its task in a unique manner, all of these reports are similar in their conclusions. They note that while rural financial markets work reasonably well, not all market segments are equally well served. They all agree that small businesses from rural areas can have a difficult time obtaining financing, have fewer credit options, and may well pay more for their credit than

comparable urban enterprises. At a time when small businesses are being recognized for their valuable contributions to our economic growth and stability, small businesses are facing increasing demands for credit, and Small Business Administration funding is frequently being challenged.

Historically, rural economic activity has been synonymous with agricultural production. Today, this is no longer the case. The number of farms in the United States has declined dramatically from about 6 million in the first half of this century, to about 2 million farms in 1990. While agriculture is still an important component of rural America and its credit needs are reasonably well addressed; the financial needs of rural nonagricultural business require attention now more than ever.

While government sponsored enterprises [GSE's] have contributed to the successes of agriculture and rural housing by providing competitive and reliable credit, there has been no GSE financing for rural nonagricultural businesses. As all of these reports point out, credit options for nonagricultural business are relatively scarce, expensive, and sometimes nonexistent. Yet, as the GAO and the Fed reports point out, economic development in these areas is actually hindered by these borrowers' difficulties in obtaining capital.

The facts are worrisome. As the RUPRI study points out, many rural areas were bypassed by recent employment growth. Existing rural employment is concentrated in slow-growth or declining industries. Job growth in rural areas, particularly rural areas that are not adjacent to metropolitan areas, is biased toward low-skill, low-wage activities. USDA has stated that "Rural economies are characterized by a preponderance of small businesses, fewer and smaller local sources of financial capital, less diversification of business and industry, and fewer ties to non-local economic activity."

Rural nonagricultural businessmen seek to be contributing members of our economic society. They do not seek a Federal hand out. They look for equal credit opportunities and an opportunity to participate fully in the same business activities of their urban counterparts.

As a political body, we need to consider the plight of rural nonagricultural businesses and the great potential that they offer our economy. I bring this issue to the attention of my colleagues in the hope we can work together and review constructive solutions to this program.●

#### GUYANA

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Guyana as it celebrates the thirty-first anniversary of its independence. The Guyanese American community has a great deal of history to celebrate, and I wish to recognize the changes and advance-

ments that have been made in Guyana in the past 31 years.

For 32 years, the country of Guyana has worked to improve its standing within the international community and establish itself as a well-respected democracy. I am sure you will agree that Guyana has succeeded in these two goals. Participation in both the United Nations and the Caribbean Free Trade Area have meant better relations with the rest of the world. In addition, the smooth transition of power between President Hoyte and President Jagan in 1992 signify the end of political oppression in Guyana.

I have been pleased with the United States' decision to reinstate the economic assistance to Guyana it had suspended in 1982 because it represents our willingness to take an active interest in Guyana. I hope that this partnership between Guyana and the United States will continue to flourish as Guyana capitalizes on the progress that independence has encouraged. Privatization, growth and decreased inflation are only a few of the ways in which the quality of life in Guyana has improved. These reforms can and must continue.

The Guyanese have made tremendous achievements so far. With the continued commitment of its population, ongoing growth can be a reality. I look forward to 32 more years of positive news from this country.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM F. LUEBBERT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to William F. Luebbert of Hanover, NH, for his outstanding service as a volunteer executive in Vladivostok, Russia.

William worked on a volunteer mission with the International Executive Service Corps, a nonprofit organization which sends retired Americans to assist businesses and private enterprises in the developing countries and the new emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

William assisted the Vladivostok State University of Economics with its computer technology. He is the retired director of academic computing at USMA (West Point). William is also a retired U.S. Army colonel.

William, and his wife Nancy, spent a month in Russia. Their outstanding patriotic engagement provides active assistance for people in need and helps build strong ties of trust and respect between Russia and America. William's mission aids at ending the cycle of dependency on foreign assistance.

I commend William for his dedicated service and I am proud to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

#### SOUTH CAROLINA WATERMELONS: MOTHER NATURE'S PERFECT CANDY

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, as Americans across the United States celebrated Independence Day this past weekend, many enjoyed the summer

delight of a red, juicy watermelon. I rise today to recognize watermelon farmers, the people who make this Fourth of July tradition possible.

All day yesterday and today, my staff, along with the staffs of Representative JOHN SPRATT and Representative JIM CLYBURN, will be delivering South Carolina watermelons to offices throughout the Senate and House of Representatives. Thanks to South Carolina watermelon farmers such as Jim Williams of Lodge in Colleton County, those of us here in Washington will be able to cool off from the summer heat with a delicious South Carolina watermelon.

This year, farmers across South Carolina planted more than 11,000 acres of watermelons. These are some of the finest watermelons produced anywhere in the United States. Watermelons of all varieties—Jubilees, Sangrias, Allsweets, Star Brites, Crimson Sweets, red seedless, yellow seedless, and other hybrids are produced in South Carolina and marketed across the Nation.

Through the end of this month, farmers in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton, and other southern South Carolina counties will harvest hundreds of thousands of watermelons. In the Pee Dee areas around Chesterfield, Darlington, and Florence counties, the harvest will continue until about August 20.

Mr. President, as we savor the taste of these watermelons, we should remember the work and labor that goes into producing such a delicious fruit. While Americans enjoyed watermelons at the beach and at backyard barbecues all over the Nation this past weekend, most did not stop to consider where they came from. Farmers will be laboring all summer in the heat and humidity to bring us what we call Mother Nature's perfect candy. These remarkable watermelons are sweet, succulent and, most importantly, nutritious and fat free. The truth is, Mr. President, that our farmers are too often the forgotten workers in our country. Through their dedication and commitment, our Nation is able to enjoy a wonderful selection of fresh fruit, vegetables and other foods. In fact, our agricultural system is the envy of the world.

South Carolina farmers lead the way in the production of watermelons. For example, my State was a leader in the development of black plastic and irrigation to expand the watermelon growing season. By covering the earth in the spring with black plastic, farmers are able to speed up the melons' growth by raising soil temperatures. In addition, the plastic allows farmers to shut out much of the visible light, which inhibits weed growth. In addition, I am pleased to note that the scientists at the USDA Vegetable Laboratory in my hometown of Charleston continue to strive to find even more efficient and effective ways to produce one of our State's most popular fruits.

Therefore, as Congressmen and their staffs feast on watermelons this week,

I hope they all will remember the folks in South Carolina who made this endeavor possible: Jim Williams of Williams Farms in Lodge; Les Tindal, our State agriculture commissioner; Martin Eubanks and Minta Wade of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture; Randy Cockrell and the members of the South Carolina Watermelon Association; and finally, Bennie Hughes and the South Carolina Watermelon Board in Columbia. They all have worked extremely hard to ensure that Congressmen can get a taste of South Carolina.

So, I hope everyone in our Nation's Capital will be smiling as they enjoy the pleasure of a South Carolina watermelon.●

#### NATO ENLARGEMENT AT THE SUMMIT OF THE EIGHT

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to call to my colleagues' attention a column by Jim Hoagland of the Washington Post that was published in today's edition on page A19. This column is entitled "Diktat' From Washington," and discusses what happened after the announcement that the United States would support only the admission of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary into NATO.

As Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, better known as the Helsinki Commission, I held a series of hearings on human rights and NATO enlargement, and last week released a Commission report assessing the readiness of candidate states to join the Alliance, based upon our evaluation of their human rights compliance. In the course of these hearings, I expressed my support for the inclusion of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Romania in the first round of NATO expansion.

Now, Mr. Hoagland has recounted how the U.S. policy choice was conveyed to our allies and how they received it, both before and at the Summit of the Eight, just concluded in Denver. I commend this account to my colleagues and suggest that they consider what Hoagland calls the creation of at least a temporary line dividing nations that suffered equally under Soviet rule, and its probable consequences in central and eastern Europe.

While I do not believe that equality of suffering is the standard by which candidate NATO members should be judged, I am afraid that omitting Slovenia, Romania, and the Baltic states could cause future problems that could be avoided if we admitted them now. I will have more to say on this subject as we approach the Madrid Summit.

Mr. President, I ask that the aforementioned Jim Hoagland column be printed in the RECORD.

The column follows:

[From the Washington Post, June 25, 1997]

DIKTAT FROM WASHINGTON

(By Jim Hoagland)

NEW YORK—The devil that always lurks in the details of cosmic feats of diplomacy has suddenly emerged to jab President Clinton's plans for NATO expansion with several sharp pitchforks.

The pitchforks will not derail the administration's rush for expansion of the Atlantic alliance. But they could tarnish an event Clinton had confidently expected to be a crown jewel in his presidential legacy—the NATO summit in Madrid two weeks away.

That meeting now will be approached without great enthusiasm by many of America's European allies, who are disturbed by what some see as an American attempt to "dictate" to them who will be admitted as new members of the alliance.

France and a half-dozen other countries will continue to press at the Madrid summit to add Romania and Slovenia to the list of approved candidates, French President Jacques Chirac told Clinton in Denver last weekend during the Summit of the Eight, according to a senior French official aware of the contents of the conversation.

The French do not expect to shake America's insistence that only the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland will be issued invitations at Madrid on July 7. All 16 members accept those three candidates; nine of the 16 favor expanding expansion to five.

But Chirac's remarks represent a rebuff for an American attempt to shut off debate on the numbers game. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott convoked the ambassadors from NATO states on June 12 and delivered what diplomats from three of America's closest allies described to me later as a "Diktat" that stunned them. The normally elegantly mannered Talbott's demand for silence would have done justice to Ring Lardner's great line: "Shut up," he explained.

The tone between Clinton and Chirac in Denver was far more cordial, but their failure to agree was clear: "Each one spoke as if disappointed that he had not been able to convince the other of a very good argument," a French official said.

The Clintonites feel they minimize the initial problems of expansion by sticking to three clearly qualified candidates. Chirac argues that rejection of Romania is unfair, immoral and certain to further destabilize NATO's troubled southern flank.

The bilateral French-U.S. meeting at the economic summit also failed, as expected, to resolve differences between Paris and Washington on internal NATO command arrangements. This means that the original U.S. hope that France would formally rejoin NATO's military command at the Madrid gathering and make it an even more glittering celebration has to be abandoned.

A third maximum U.S. goal got hooked by gremlins at Denver when President Boris Yeltsin made it clear that Russia would not treat the Madrid summit as a high-level celebration of unity and harmony.

Yeltsin curtly rejected a suggestion that he attend the gathering, saying pointedly that he would send his ambassador in Madrid instead. Later he was inveigled to upgrade Russia's representation to a deputy prime minister.

Chirac, who worked hard to persuade Washington not to back Yeltsin into a corner on NATO expansion, finds Yeltsin much more at ease now that NATO and Moscow have signed an agreement establishing a NATO-Russia Council. Russian participation in the Denver summit provided Yeltsin with good arguments to use to explain NATO expansion to the Russian public, Chirac believes.