

Earth, some are distorted by gravity. During Columbia's mission, protein growth experiments grew large quantities of various proteins. These experiments are designed to improve our knowledge and lead to breakthroughs in diabetes, bronchial asthma, AIDS, various kinds of inflammation, and Chagas disease, a disease affecting 20 million people worldwide but most prevalent in Latin America and making its way into the United States.

Materials science has unlimited potential. Historically, mankind's development has been tied to the development of new materials since the dawn of time—the "Stone Age", the "Iron Age", the "Bronze Age." As humanity matures into the "space age," the need for new materials is as important and evolutionary as ever. The key to materials science research is understanding how the structure of a material forms and how this structure affects the properties of the material. On Earth, sedimentation and buoyancy cause uneven mixing of the ingredients of the material and can deform the structure as it solidifies. Imperfections in the structures of metals and alloys can affect mechanical strength or resistance to corrosion, while similar flaws in glasses and alloys can make them easier to crack or break. In microgravity, sedimentation and buoyancy are reduced or eliminated, enabling investigators to learn how these factors affect the final structure of the material. The knowledge gained from the studies on board Columbia will be used to improve materials processing on earth. These are the materials which will allow us to chart the great unknowns of space in the decades ahead.

The third area of world-class research was conducted in combustion, which accounts for approximately 85 percent of the world's energy production and a significant percentage of the world's atmospheric pollution. Combustion plays a key role in processes involved in ground transportation, spacecraft propulsion, aircraft propulsion, and hazardous waste disposal. However, despite many years of study, we have only a limited understanding of many fundamental combustion processes. The results from experiments in these areas will help NASA design engines for cleaner air and more fuel efficiency. Just a tenth of 1 percent increase in the ability to burn fuel more efficiently can more than pay the cost of a shuttle mission and help keep the environment cleaner as well. We spend hundreds of billions of dollars each year on oil and every penny saved is a penny that stays right here in America.

All of these experiments I just mentioned, Mr. President, were performed inside Spacelab, a joint venture of NASA and the European Space Agency. Investigators representing 32 universities, 12 commercial industries and five government agencies participated in the 33 microgravity experiments in Spacelab. This mission was a bridge be-

tween the activities currently possible on Spacelab and those of a much longer duration but with similar international cooperation that will take place on International Space Station.

This mission caused no great fanfare like the Mars mission is continuing to cause. Like many of you, I greatly enjoyed watching the coverage of the landing of the Pathfinder with my family over the Fourth of July weekend. I felt a special pride at this event. The Mars mission is a uniquely American accomplishment and has captured the imagination and attention of the world. I look forward to the day when the United States sends a manned mission to Mars. America must continue to be a nation of explorers, carrying out the traditions of discovery embodied by Lewis and Clark, and the other great explorers. So much depends on our leadership and the dedication of thousands of men and women working on projects large and small that will lead us to new frontiers in space.

This morning, NASA Administrator Dan Goldin addressed the Republican Freshman Caucus. We discussed with him many of NASA's visionary projects and the future need for the International Space Station as a bridge to future exploration. On the Space Station, NASA will learn how to keep astronauts safe and healthy for long periods of time. They will learn how to shield astronauts from radiation. They will learn more about how to combat the bone loss astronauts experience after they have been in orbit for just a short period of time. And they will learn how to deal with medical problems, such as blood loss, a virus or bacterial infection, and surgical procedure. These are all things that we must be prepared for if we are to send men and women in space for long periods of time. Mr. Goldin praised astronaut Michael Foale, our astronaut abroad the Mir space station, as a true American hero. Foale is demonstrating to the world that U.S. astronauts are prepared to deal with adversity and hardship. He stressed that our children are seeing a drama in real time that is as fascinating to them as the drama we followed aboard Apollo 13 many years ago. Mr. Goldin assured us, however, that he has three teams examining the safety factors of the Mir and that all must sign off before any more U.S. astronauts are placed on board. He has confidence in the crew and confidence in the Mir, he strongly believes we must stay the course.

Each Senator in attendance received a copy of the first photograph to be returned from Mars. I understand Mr. Goldin will be sending one to each Member of this body. He also proudly stated that NASA's Internet site on this mission has received over 300 million hits during its first five days, breaking all records for an Internet site. This mission has united the world in its interest. It has sparked the imagination of a new generation of space adventurers, and only time will tell how far they will go.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I believe the Mars mission symbolizes the very best of America. It transcends politics and demonstrates the cutting edge technology that has made our Nation the forerunner in space exploration. This is truly the way we want the world to see us, isn't it? Space is the key to the image and the future of this nation in the 21st century and beyond. We must have national leadership, a keen vision, clear-cut goals, and a strong commitment from this and the Congresses to follow. We must be willing to pay the price necessary to realize our dreams and the dreams and goals of our children. Where will we be in just 20 years from now? Mr. Goldin and his employees at NASA have the vision that will take us beyond the fringe of the universe and, along the way, will provide untold benefits for mankind.

We are indeed a nation of adventurers and the crew of Columbia, the scientists at JPL and U.S. astronaut Michael Foale are setting the azimuth and cutting the trail for us to follow. The question is "Will we heed the signs and run the risks to get to the other side?" I believe our nation is ready for that challenge and will meet it in every way.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 942

(Purpose: To provide for a national media campaign focused on preventing youth drug abuse)

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Senator HATCH and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL], for Mr. HATCH, proposes an amendment numbered 942.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At page 47, line 19, strike all after "Appropriations" to page 48, line 1 at "Provided".

In lieu thereof, insert "and Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate that includes (1) a certification, and guidelines to ensure that funds will supplement and not supplant current anti-drug community based coalitions; (2) a certification, and guidelines to ensure that none of the funds will be used for partisan political purposes; (3) a certification, and guidelines to ensure that no media campaigns to be funded pursuant to this campaign shall feature any elected officials, persons seeking elected office, cabinet-level officials, or other Federal officials employed pursuant to Schedule C of 5

Code Federal Regulations, Section 213, absent notice to each of the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and Judiciary; (4) a detailed implementation plan to be submitted to the Chairman of the Committees on Appropriations and Judiciary for securing private sector contributions including but not limited to in kind contributions; (5) a quantifiable system to measure outcome of success of the national media campaign, including but not limited to total funds expended, to what, where, or whom such funds were expended, and the effect which such media campaign has had in reducing youth drug abuse."

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this amendment be set aside.

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 943

(Purpose: To establish parity among the countries that are parties to the North American Free Trade Agreement with respect to the personal allowance for duty-free merchandise purchased abroad by returning residents)

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] proposes an amendment numbered 943.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following new section:

SEC. . PERSONAL ALLOWANCE PARITY AMONG NAFTA PARTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall initiate discussions with officials of the Governments of Mexico and Canada to achieve parity in the duty-free personal allowance structure of the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

(b) REPORT.—The United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury shall report to Congress within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act on the progress that is being made to correct any disparity between the United States, Mexico, and Canada with respect to duty-free personal allowances.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—If parity with respect to duty-free personal allowances between the United States, Mexico, and Canada is not achieved within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit recommendations to Congress for appropriate legislation.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, we have probably the best relations with Mexico than we have had in this country in a long, long time. I think NAFTA has added to the good will and the trade between our nations. But there is one part of our trade relationship that is not at parity and is not in the spirit of NAFTA, and that is the exemptions for personal goods or for buying when you are on the border between Mexico and the United States.

As a matter of fact, there is not parity in the exemption, and I think that is against the spirit of NAFTA. I am hoping that we will be able to change that, and that is what my amendment will attempt to do.

The amendment is very simple. It directs the U.S. Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury to begin discussions with their counterparts in Mexico to achieve parity in the duty-free allowance structure of all of our NAFTA countries, and the concern is between Mexico and the United States.

These officials will report to Congress within 90 days on the changes they are making to correct these disparities. If the situation remains unchanged, in 6 months these officials will propose appropriate legislation to bring the United States' duty-free allowance to conform to the allowance levels established by Mexico and Canada.

Let me give an example of what is wrong and why this disparity exists. The United States provides that each U.S. resident returning from Mexico has a personal exemption from duty on merchandise valued at up to \$400 once every 30 days. Mexico, however, has a two-tier duty-free allowance. If you are a resident in a 25-kilometer strip along Mexico's northern border, and you return from the United States at a land border crossing, you may only return with \$50 in duty-free merchandise.

This has become known as the \$50 rule. It is crippling business in our border retailers on the U.S. side of the border in Texas, California, New Mexico and Arizona, because if you are a Mexican resident bringing in more than \$50, you must pay a 22.8 percent duty rate. Now, this makes it prohibitively expensive for a Mexican resident to purchase a washing machine, a refrigerator, any kind of electronics or any item costing more than \$50, so it is inequitable.

We believe in the spirit of NAFTA, in parity, in equity, any rule you want to apply, that it should just be the same. We have been talking about this for 3½ years, since I came to the Senate. The border retailers in Texas told me that the \$50 rule was being enforced by the Mexican Government. I have talked to the officials of the Mexican Government about this. I truly believe that President Zedillo intended to do something about it. He said he was going to right after he was elected. But we all know that the peso crisis occurred, and surely he had so many things on his

plate that this was not on the front burner. I understood that.

Now the Mexican economic situation is stabilized, and certainly, I think, it is on its way to full recovery, and I think this matter of equity and parity must be addressed. That is why my amendment would just ask the U.S. Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury to begin these discussions, to report back, and if they are not able to make progress, then tell us what legislation should be passed to make this happen.

That is the amendment. I hope both sides will agree this is in everyone's best interests, and I hope we will be able to vote on this or have it accepted early next week and that we can begin the process of making sure that the spirit, as well as the letter, of NAFTA is applied to both sides of our relationship with the country of Mexico.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to lay the amendment aside, and we will take it up at the appropriate time.

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

Mr. STEVENS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, there are several amendments now pending at the desk that will be subject to a vote on Monday. I ask unanimous consent that no second-degree amendments be in order. I understand this has been cleared on both sides.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

(During today's session of the Senate, the following morning business was transacted.)

TRIBUTE TO COL. THOMAS L. OWENS, U.S. ARMY CHIEF OF PERSONNEL, U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Army officer who has served our Nation with distinction for the past 27 years. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for his service.

A native of Brandon, MS, Colonel Owens attended High School in Byram, MS. He graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi, where he was commissioned as a regular Army second lieutenant in June 1970. This foundation, provided by his education and training in Mississippi, began his distinguished national career.