

in true Montana tradition this harvest season.

Cliff Gullickson was killed in a farm accident when the grain truck he was driving to Big Sandy rolled on August 8. Neighbors rallied together the way only agricultural folks can to harvest the Gullickson's grain.

Some of the combines came from 50 miles away for the harvest and all started the day with a prayer for their safety and for Cliff Gullickson. In four hours the remaining 170 acres were harvested.

Don Jenkins, who lives on the northeast border of the Gullickson's farm said, "This is what you do when there's a tragedy. This is their bread and butter. This is their livelihood sitting out in this field." That statement summarizes the attitude and depth of feeling prevalent in farming and ranching.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the Gullickson family for the loss of a fine person who dedicated his life to agriculture and also commend them for their hard work and dedication to the agricultural community.

Additionally, I commend each and every neighbor who lent a helping hand this harvest season in the face of a tragedy.●

NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to draw the Senate's attention to National Assisted Living Week. The National Center for Assisted Living is sponsoring National Assisted Living Week this week to highlight the significance and the hope that this type of service can provide seniors.

Assisted living is a long term care alternative for seniors who need more assistance than is available in retirement communities, but do not require the heavy medical and nursing care provided by nursing facilities. Approximately one million of our nation's seniors have chosen the option of assisted living in this country. This demonstrates a tremendous desire by seniors and their families to have the kind of assistance that they need in bathing, taking medications or other activities of daily living in a setting that truly becomes their home.

This year's theme of National Assisted Living Week is "A Community of Families" and I think that is appropriate because assisted living encourages the involvement of families in the lives of the residents of assisted living facilities, and because this option can mean so much for seniors and their families.

Oregon has led our nation in pioneering the concept of assisted living and the state spends more state health dollars to provide assisted living services than any other state in our nation. Assisted living has taken different directions in different states and I believe providing these choices for consumers is important to provide security, dignity and independence for seniors.

Assisted living will become even more important as an option of seniors and their families as our nation experiences the tsunami of aging baby boomers. It is important for us to continue to support options that allow seniors and their families a choice of settings in order to assure that they get the level of care that they need.●

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PAYROLL WEEK 1999

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of National Payroll Week 1999, which has been designated as September 13-17.

National Payroll Week was founded by the American Payroll Association in 1996 to honor the men and women whose tax contributions support the American Dream and the payroll professionals who are dedicated to processing those contributions.

In particular, the Susquehanna Valley Chapter of the American Payroll Association represents 200,000 residents and 25 businesses in Pennsylvania. These taxpayers contribute millions of dollars to the federal and state treasuries through payroll taxes each year. These taxes help pay for important civic projects including roads, schools, crime prevention, and national defense. In addition, taxpayers and payroll professionals are partners in maintaining the Social Security and Medicare systems.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the taxpayers and payroll professionals who, through the payment, collection, and reporting of payroll taxes, have helped make our nation great.●

CONGRATULATING DR. SUPACHAI PANITCHPAKDI

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I congratulate Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi of Thailand on his selection to serve as Director General of the World Trade Organization. Dr. Supachai, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, has been an unfailing advocate for the principles of free trade and is an excellent choice to lead this organization. I am very pleased that our faithful friend and ally, the Royal Kingdom of Thailand, will have one of their citizens guiding an international organization.

The agreement reached will split the next term between Dr. Supachai and Michael Moore, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand. As many of my colleagues know, the process for selecting a new Director General was at a standstill for months. Renato Ruggerio of Italy, the first and very successful Director General, finished his term and stepped down at the end of April. Despite the fact that his departure was known well in advance, no consensus on a successor was formed and the post remained vacant at a critical time—the Seattle round of trade talks being on the immediate horizon. Most of the

countries of Europe and Asia have been united in their support of Dr. Supachai while the administration has supported Mr. Moore. The agreement reached by the member nations will permit Mr. Moore to serve a three year term to be followed by a three year term for Dr. Supachai.

For those of you unfamiliar with Dr. Supachai's work, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, his most pressing responsibility has been developing policy to guide his country through their current economic challenges. This included taking a significant role in shepherding important banking and regulatory reforms through the Thai Parliament that are important to the sound economic foundation of his country. The IMF has reported good news for Thailand on the economic front. After experiencing an economic contraction of 8% in 1997, their economy is expected to grow this year by 2-3% with an expected growth rate of 5% in 2000. Their currency, the baht, has stabilized and the government has rebuilt reserves to higher than pre-crisis levels. This is very good news and a positive sign for an economic recovery for all of Asia.

Dr. Supachai was also one of the architects of the economic policies that led his country to merge as a dynamic economic engine in Asia and experience several years of phenomenal economic growth. As Minister of Commerce he has been active in opening the business sector to foreign participation and improving transparency. He helped create the country's Export-Import Bank and has worked very closely with the countries of Southeast Asia in creating the ASEAN free trade zone. In Thailand, he was a strong voice in forging public acceptance of the Uruguay round of trade talks and guiding ratification of the treaty through the Parliament. Throughout the economic crisis, Dr. Supachai's support for free trade has not wavered. His credentials on the issues important to leadership at the WTO speak volumes.

I believe it is important that an individual representing Asia and a developing economy has an important role in a prominent international organization, as Dr. Supachai will have. There are over 400 million people living in Southeast Asia alone, this region will soon be the second largest market for our exports. This region and all of Asia are growing in importance to our economy and security. A strong voice representing the Asian economies is overdue.

The economic collapse in Asia, Russia and other nations did not simply stifle growth of U.S. exports, it put millions of people out of work in these countries, exacerbated the poverty level and in some cases led to social upheaval. Unfortunately, it caused policy makers in many foreign nations to question the pace of globalization and in some cases question the wisdom of globalization. Many countries believe that they have little to gain through

expanding trade and everything to lose and that their stake in trade negotiations is limited. I do not agree. Increasing fair trade has contributed greatly to improving the standard of living of Americans and sustaining the growth of our economy and it holds the same potential for our trading partners.

While this is an unfortunate development, it is not one without a solution. The solution is working with individuals like Dr. Supachai who believe in expanding trade and working to improve the role and the economies of developing nations. Rather than being an after thought, we must begin to work with more nations if more are to believe that they have a role in globalization. For the global trading structure to succeed and prosper, all countries must have faith in the trading system and faith that trade deals are being reached to the benefit of all member nations rather than just the most powerful. Dr. Supachai is uniquely suited to facilitate such change and his increased role in the international stage is a very positive development for the World Trade Organization.

Finally, I believe the people of Thailand could have been treated better by the United States in this process. They are our good friends and faithful allies. We on the other hand were slow in selecting a candidate and did not do a good job in forging a compromise. Despite Dr. Supachai's strong advocacy of the principles of free trade, we actively worked against him. Fortunately, groups such as the US-ASEAN Business Council and companies like Boeing were outspoken on Dr. Supachai's strong record on trade issues. This lack of leadership does not enhance the credibility of the WTO and needlessly strains relationships with our friends. But I am confident that the new leadership, Mr. Moore and Dr. Supachai, can overcome these obstacles and look forward to working with them on these issues.

So once again, I congratulate Dr. Supachai on his appointment. He is very strong on promoting expanded trade and I am confident that a leadership role for a representative of a Southeast Asian nation is a positive development for the World Trade Organization. I would like to commend the people of Thailand for their persistence and not backing down in their support of their candidate. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Moore and wish him the best; he is taking control of the organization at a critically important time. I look forward to working with both of these gentlemen on the issues that are important to advancing free and fair trade around the world.●

THE ARAB AMERICAN CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my sincere congratulations to the Arab American Cultural and Community Center in Houston,

Texas. The Center will be hosting its Fourth Annual Gala "Unity of Friendship" in Houston on October 16, 1999, and it is worthy of recognition.

Mr. President, I commend those who have strived so hard to build this Center and make it a vibrant part of the community in Texas. This is an important effort which has advanced and demonstrated the continuing positive contributions of Arab-Americans. This Center has served as a cultural resource center for all nationalities in Houston, but is a special place where Arab-American culture, art, and language can be preserved and carried on for generations to come. It has assisted the children in the Arab American community by teaching them about their ancestors' impressive history and heritage.

I am pleased to recognize the efforts of those involved in this year's banquet and to note that they are generously donating a portion of the proceeds to help very worthwhile humanitarian projects. They are to be commended for their efforts and foresight, and I am pleased to acknowledge them in the United States Senate.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO WHP-AM 580

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate WHP-AM 580 in Harrisburg, PA as they celebrate their 75th anniversary as a prominent news leader in Central Pennsylvania.

For 75 years, WHP has covered the biggest news stories of the day, including the holocaust, Pearl Harbor, the Korean War, Vietnam, Watergate and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

As the owner of the radio news franchise in the Capitol region, WHMP reaches more than 100,000 people a week. The unique talent at WHP along with their exceptional news coverage and distinct personalities, have contributed to the station's listener loyalty and enthusiasm.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating WHP on their 75th anniversary and on their commitment to excellence in their news coverage to Pennsylvania and the Capital region.●

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

● Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, September 10, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,652,191,549,114.70 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-two billion, one hundred ninety-one million, five hundred forty-nine thousand, one hundred fourteen dollars and seventy cents).

One year ago, September 10, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,545,658,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-five billion, six hundred fifty-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, September 10, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,572,266,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred seventy-two billion, two hundred sixty-six million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 10, 1974, the Federal debt stood at \$479,580,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-nine billion, five hundred eighty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,172,611,549,114.70 (Five trillion, one hundred seventy-two billion, six hundred eleven million, five hundred forty-nine thousand, one hundred fourteen dollars and seventy cents) during the past 25 years.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Executive Calendar Nos. 211 and 212. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

David N. Hurd, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Naomi Reice Buchwald, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

MODIFICATION OF LIST OF CONFEREES—H.R. 2670

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the list of conferees for the Commerce, State, Justice appropriations bill be modified to add Senator LEAHY.

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

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-9

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following convention transmitted to the Senate on September 13, 1999, by the President of the United States: Tax Convention with Slovenia, Treaty Document No. 106-9.

I further ask unanimous consent that the convention be considered as having been read the first time, that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed, and that the