

they can't afford to take their medicine. Their doctor tells them to take three pills. They don't do that. They start taking two. They start taking one. Eventually they get much sicker.

The Snowe-Wyden legislation is bipartisan. It uses marketplace forces. We don't have a Federal price control regime. We don't have a one-size-fits-all health care policy. We have the kind of approach that works for Members of Congress and their families.

Our bill, called SPICE, the Senior Prescription Insurance Coverage Equity Act, is a senior citizens version of the kind of health plan that Members of Congress have. We incorporated recommendations from consumer groups. Families USA, for example, has made some excellent recommendations on consumer protections that older people need.

We have also listened to the insurance sector and the pharmaceutical sector, making sure there would be adequate incentives for research and the initiatives that are underway to help us find a cure for Alzheimer's and all of the illnesses that are so tragic, for which every Member of the Senate wants to see a cure.

I will keep coming to the floor. I want to cite a couple more examples before we wrap up. I know other colleagues want to speak.

I heard recently from a senior citizen in Forest Grove that in recent months she spent almost \$1,500 on her prescription drugs. Another older person from the Portland metropolitan area reported that in a few months, she spent over \$600 for her medications. She is now taking more than seven medications on an ongoing basis.

Very often the families have to go out and try to find free samples to compensate for some of the drugs the older people can't afford. Families have to chip in when it is hard for them to afford medicine. They are all asking, is the Senate going to just bicker about this issue or is the Senate going to come together in a bipartisan way and actually do something about these problems? We have more than 20 percent of the Nation's older people spending over \$1,000 a year out of pocket on their medicine.

I am very often asked: Can this Nation afford to cover prescription drugs? My response is, we cannot afford not to cover these prescriptions. As I have cited several times during these presentations, a lot of these drugs help us to hold down costs. They help us to deal with blood pressure and cholesterol. The anticoagulant drugs are absolutely key to preventing strokes. I cited an example of one important anticoagulant drug where for \$1,000 a year, in terms of the cost to the senior, they are able to save \$100,000 in expenses that they would incur if they suffered a debilitating stroke when they couldn't get these medicines.

It is absolutely essential that we secure this coverage for the Nation's older people. It seems to me now a

question of political will. Can we set aside some of the partisanship on this health care issue, some of the bickering that has gone on back and forth? I believe the Snowe-Wyden legislation—a majority of the Senate has already voted for in terms of its funding plan—is the way to go. But I know colleagues have other ideas.

What we ought to do is resolve to deal with this issue in a bipartisan way. I hope seniors will continue to send us copies of their prescription drug bills, as the poster says, to their Senator in Washington, DC.

I hope in the days ahead we won't see a whole lot more of these tragedies such as the one I have cited today. It is one thing for a senior to send in their bills and say, I am having difficulty paying for this; I hope you will cover it. But it is quite another for a senior citizen to send me, as this older person did from Beaverton, a copy of his prescriptions saying—it says it right down in the margin—"can't afford to get filled." Prescriptions his doctor ordered, in effect the prescriptions go unfilled. These are important medicines. If you don't take Glucophage and you have diabetes, you can have some very serious health problems.

I am hopeful the Senate will look to get beyond the dueling press conferences, look beyond some of the issues that have surrounded this discussion in a partisan way and say: We are going to come together and go to bat for seniors and their families. It is time to do it.

I intend to keep coming back to the floor until we secure this coverage. It was important for seniors back in the days when I was director of the Gray Panthers. It is even more important now because these drugs can help us to save bigger health care bills down the road. I will be back on the floor continually calling for a bipartisan approach to this issue, one that uses marketplace forces to deal with the challenge of health care costs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Mr. GRAMS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1860 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### REMARKS BY U.S. TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY RODNEY SLATER ON THE PASSING OF SENATOR JOHN CHAFEE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today, as we gather together to witness LINCOLN CHAFEE take the oath of office to serve as the Senator from Rhode Island, I am reminded of my conversation last week with Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater.

We shared fond memories of our friend and spoke of his many contributions to transportation safety. Secretary Slater worked closely with Chairman Chafee on transportation issues that came before the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the remarks made last week by Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater on the passing of our colleagues, Senator John Chafee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### STATEMENT OF U.S. TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY RODNEY E. SLATER ON THE PASSING OF SENATOR JOHN CHAFEE

We are deeply saddened by the death of Senator John Chafee. He served the people of Rhode Island and of this nation long and well, and leaves a legacy of accomplishment that will endure for generations.

As chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Sen. Chafee realized that the highway system is more than concrete, asphalt and steel, and was an early champion of a safer, more balanced, environmentally sensitive transportation system. As a key author of the groundbreaking Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, he possessed a vision of how much better and stronger our surface transportation system could be. He then worked tirelessly to preserve and build on those gains in the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. He cared deeply about health care, and fought hard for critical highway safety improvements and against drunk and drugged driving.

Sen. Chafee was responsible for the creation of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program and transportation enhancement activities. He insisted that the highway system not be looked at alone, but rather as a comprehensive network which includes trains, planes, buses, bicycles and pedestrian paths.

Sen. Chafee also was a protector of our marine environment, playing a major role in the passage of legislation to prevent oil spills and prohibit ocean dumping. He also was instrumental in the passage of the 1990 Clean Air Act. He always worked in a bipartisan manner with President Clinton and this administration in order to get things done.

Here at the U.S. Department of Transportation, we will work to carry forward his legacy as we continue to build the transportation system of the next century.

#### OMBUDSMAN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, in the Summer of 1998, I met with a group of concerned citizens from the Overland Park neighborhood, which is located in southwest Denver. The dozen or so residents had requested a meeting with me to discuss an issue that had taken up more than six years of their lives and had driven them to distrust anything the Environmental Protection Agency had told them about a Superfund site located in their neighborhood called Shattuck.

The story surrounding the Shattuck Superfund site and what the EPA did to this community will have a lasting impact not only on the residents of the

Overland Park neighborhood, but on each and everyone of us who look for the EPA to be the guardian of our nation's environmental health and safety.

For those who have not followed the Shattuck case, these are the facts that have been uncovered thus far. In 1991, the local Region 8 EPA office and the Colorado Department of Health began to look at possible remedies for the cleanup of the old S.W. Shattuck Chemical Company located on South Bannock Street in Denver. Initially, it was determined that the safest and most effective cleanup was removal of the radioactive waste to a registered storage facility in Utah. But following a secret meeting between Shattuck's attorneys, EPA and the Colorado Department of Health the decision was made to store the waste on-site. Residents in the area were never told that the remedy chosen by the EPA had never been used before anywhere in the United States, and more importantly documents calling into question the reliability of the remedy were kept from the public. In 1993, the EPA signed the Record of Decision (ROD) and the radioactive waste at the Shattuck Superfund site was entombed on-site.

Over the next five years the citizens of Overland Park fought to get their neighborhood back. They petitioned the EPA for a review of the decision and were denied. They attempted to submit new information about the safety of the remedy selected and were told by the EPA the remedy was safe. Finally, last summer the residents concerns were brought to my attention. After meeting with area residents and business owners, I determined their questions deserved answers and together we began a journey to find the truth about Shattuck.

Last October, I asked the EPA to meet with the community to answer their questions and was informed they would not conduct such a public meeting. Outraged by their answer, I exercised my right as a U.S. Senator to hold up Senate confirmation of a key EPA official. The move resulted in the EPA agreeing to my request for an independent investigation of Shattuck by the National Ombudsman. Earlier this year he began his investigation and quickly determined the claims made by residents were not only meritorious, but that EPA officials had engaged in an effort to keep documents hidden from the public.

In fact, the Ombudsman was so successful at uncovering the facts surrounding Shattuck, his investigation has resulted in EPA officials now looking at eliminating his office. A meeting was recently held among all ten EPA regional administrators and staff from EPA Administrator Carol Browner's office to discuss eliminating the Ombudsman position. This can not be allowed to happen! Nor will I allow it to happen. Without the Ombudsman's investigation on Shattuck the residents of Overland Park would have never learned the truth. The Ombudsman's

investigation brought integrity back into the process.

The EPA's efforts to curtail the Ombudsman's independence is an attempt to seek revenge for the on-going Shattuck investigation and to intimidate citizens who dare question the answers they are given by the EPA. I have recently introduced Senate Bill 1763, the "Ombudsman Reauthorization Act of 1999," which will preserve the office of the National Ombudsman. The battle to enact this legislation could be tougher than getting the EPA to admit they made a mistake at Shattuck.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, November 3, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,654,990,773,682.18 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-four billion, nine hundred ninety million, seven hundred seventy-three thousand, six hundred eighty-two dollars and eighteen cents).

One year ago, November 3, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,553,893,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred fifty-three billion, eight hundred ninety-three million).

Five years ago, November 3, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,723,729,000,000 (Four trillion, seven hundred twenty-three billion, seven hundred twenty-nine million).

Ten years ago, November 3, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,864,340,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred sixty-four billion, three hundred forty million) which reflects a doubling of the debt—an increase of almost \$3 trillion—\$2,790,650,773,682.18 (Two trillion, seven hundred ninety billion, six hundred fifty million, seven hundred seventy-three thousand, six hundred eighty-two dollars and eighteen cents) during the past 10 years.

#### JOHN H. CHAFEE

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, on the day that his son, LINCOLN, succeeds him in the Senate I would ask to have printed in the RECORD what I believe to be John H. Chafee's last formal address. It was given at the National Cathedral on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. They reflect the great beauty of the man, who loved his country so, and gave so much to it.

I ask unanimous consent the address be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS OF SENATOR JOHN H. CHAFEE FOR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, OCTOBER 21, 1999

Thank you, Dick, for your generous introduction. Secretary Babbitt, Mayor Williams, Commissioner Peck and friends, it is an honor to join you today.

Every so often there occurs an event so cataclysmic, so egregious, that it sparks a

demand for national action. For example, in the 60's and early 70's, many in our nation were disturbed about the foul condition of our natural waters—our lakes, streams, and rivers—where fish could no longer survive and filth was obvious to all who would look.

There were those who said a national response was required, but other demands on the federal treasury took precedence. Until one day the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, polluted with oil and grease, caught fire. That's right—a river burst into flames in 1969.

That was the final indignity—that was what brought about the Clean Water Act of 1972. This led to an eventual expenditure of \$70 billion by the federal government for waste water treatment plants and an even greater outlay by private industry and local communities to comply with new discharge standards.

A desperate call for national action to preserve the historically and architecturally important buildings across our land was heard in 1963. Out of a single event—the destruction of magnificent Penn Station in New York City—arose a national outcry.

Modeled in part after the Baths of Caracalla, Penn Station was an awe inspiring building the likes of which will never again be built.

A line from an editorial in the New York Times, published soon after the commencement of the station's demolition, expressed the sentiment of the day. It read:

"We will probably be judged not by the monuments we build but by those we have destroyed."

Fortunately, there was in existence an organization—The National Trust for Historic Preservation—that was trying to sound the alarm to our nation that we must save the Penn Stations and other grand buildings. And that organization is doing a superb job and we are fortunate it exists on this, its 50th birthday.

There are three points I'd like to leave with you today. They are:

First, as supporters of the National Trust, you are engaged in extremely important work for our country.

Second, you are on the cutting edge of the environmental movement.

Third, some suggestions I have that could make your efforts even more effective.

Let me exemplify point one. You are engaged—as supporters of the National Trust for Historic Preservation—in work that is extremely important to our country. You are preserving what British novelist D.H. Lawrence once referred to as the "spirit of place." Expressing his anxiety about the quiet exchange of quaint English hamlets for the faceless infrastructure of the industrial age, he wrote:

"Different places on the face of the earth have different vital effluence, different vibration, different chemical exhalation, different polarity with different stars: call it what you like. But the spirit of place is a great reality."

All across our land, your actions are preserving that spirit of place.

You are doing far more than trying to save the Penn Stations of our land. You are fostering an urban revitalization of whole sections of some of our older cities. By encouraging tax credits for rehabilitation of older buildings, by promoting smart-growth initiatives, and the conservation of open space, you are making whole sections of our older cities more livable, more attractive to home buyers.

This all makes such sense. By promoting city dwelling we reduce expenditures on brand new roads, sewer pipelines, gas, electric, and phone lines, thus assisting our town and country treasures. For within historic districts exists the needed infrastructure.