

(3) continue to facilitate the donation and distribution of pork and pork products for humanitarian purposes;

(4) work with the Canadian Government to address the many problems that contribute to the increased export of pork and pork products into the United States;

(5) take appropriate steps to encourage increased use and expansion of the domestic slaughter capacity for hogs;

(6) direct the Secretary of Agriculture, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Commerce to investigate noncompetitive and antitrust practices in the pork industry;

(7) direct the Secretary of Agriculture to improve price reporting in the domestic livestock industry to ensure fair, open, and competitive markets; and

(8) immediately implement the loan guarantee paperwork reduction regulation of the Secretary of Agriculture that will allow pork producers and lenders to use existing lender documents, rather than creating new documents, when applying for loan guarantees under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.).

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee On National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The purpose of this hearing is to review the President's proposal fiscal year 2000 Budget for National Park Service programs and operations.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 2 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Jim O'Toole or Shawn Taylor of the committee staff at (202) 224-6969.

RURAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

- Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Nation's rural health infrastructure is facing immense pressures. Changes in the private market, Medicare, Medicaid, and costs of new technologies, treatments and education are squeezing many providers out of rural areas. The President's budget shows a surprising lack of sensitivity to the critical realities in these underserved areas.

First, the President would cut reimbursement to hospitals an additional \$9 billion over the next five years. This comes before most providers have had time to absorb the full impact of the Balanced Budget Act. Rural hospitals have lower patient volumes than urban

hospitals, and they serve populations with a larger proportion of seniors, on average, than urban populations. In addition, nearly 20% of rural individuals don't carry health insurance. The burden this imposes on rural providers is intensified by the President's reduction of bad debt payments to hospitals by 10%.

Congress has begun to address these problems, and late last year, we provided \$25 million for state implementation of the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program. This program creates cost-based reimbursement for Critical Access Hospitals. The money will help states develop and implement a rural health plan, develop networks, designate Critical Access Hospitals, and to improve rural emergency medical services.

I must point out that people in rural areas don't have many choices of health providers. Thirty-seven states have less than 1% enrollment in Medicare risk plans. Often one hospital will serve the needs of many communities interspersed through very large regions. We must take great care to support, rather than destroy, the rural health infrastructure. We may need to reexamine the payment rates to hospitals, but let us do so with good data, and an awareness of the special needs of rural safety net providers.

In addition, HCFA has not yet adequately educated beneficiaries or resolved the regulatory payment issues surrounding Medicare private plan opportunities in rural areas. We in Congress must continue to monitor the developments in Medicare+Choice, and make the most of opportunities to increase the quality and choice of health care for rural Americans.

The Administration also ignored calls for an increased investment in important programs such as the National Health Service Corps, and Rural Health and Telehealth—flatlining their funding. The Office of Management and Budget also refused a request from the rural health caucus to appropriate additional demonstration grant funding for the development of emergency medical services networks.

At a time when the U.S. needs to prepare itself for emergency response to public health threats, including bioterrorism and identifying and tracking emerging threats such as antimicrobial resistance, President Clinton proposes to eliminate the health professions education programs intended to increase the number of individuals in the public health workforce. These programs include support for retraining existing public health workers, as well as increasing the supply of new practitioners to address priority public health needs.

As Chairman on the Subcommittee on Public Health, I was especially disturbed to find that the President proposes to eliminate programs directed at training primary care physicians and dentists with an emphasis of practicing in rural areas. The President signed my bill reauthorizing these important programs less than three months ago.

Currently \$80 million is spent to assist medical and dental schools in developing programs to train family physicians, general internists, physician assistants, general dentists and pediatric dentists.

There is a demonstrated imbalance between primary care providers and specialists. The key to correcting this imbalance is to provide appropriate incentives at the medical school level to introduce more students to primary care settings during their training. Yet, the President wants to eliminate it.

[Last year's request = \$77 million (\$80 million appropriated)]

COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES:

Today, \$54 million is spent to develop and support health professional training programs that link community providers with academic institutions. President Clinton suggests a \$17 million (30%) reduction.

This funding supports:

Area Health Education Centers (AHECs)—support health care in underserved rural and urban areas, including recruitment and support to help rural communities retain health professionals.

Education and Training Relating to Geriatrics—Congress established this program to ensure that our health professionals are trained to meet the needs of seniors. With the aging of the baby boom generation, the number of seniors will double over the next 40 years.

Rural Interdisciplinary Training Grants—supports projects to train, recruit and retain health care practitioners in rural areas.

[Last year's request = \$51 million, \$54 million appropriated, fy'00 request = \$37 million]

I'm disappointed that such important rural programs failed to receive adequate funding under the President's budget proposal. It appears that the Administration would do well to reexamine their commitment to a viable rural health infrastructure, and I urge my colleagues to renew their efforts to protect vulnerable Americans in rural areas.●

IN RECOGNITION OF PACZKI DAY

- Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to one of the most eagerly anticipated holidays each year in my home state of Michigan, Paczki Day.

The day before Lent is known in other parts of the country as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras, but in Metro Detroit and in other Michigan communities we celebrate Paczki Day. Paczkis, which are similar to jelly-filled doughnuts, were introduced to Metro Detroit by new immigrants from Poland who settled in the city of Hamtramck, Michigan. Today, thanks to the people of Hamtramck, Michigan is the paczki capital of the United States, with several million dozen paczkis sold every year. The Detroit Free Press reported that in 1993, paczki sales totaled

\$7 to \$8 million, which, as the Free Press reported, was "...not bad for a one-day holiday with a three-day selling period."

Paczki Day is a little like St. Patrick's Day. It is said that on St. Patrick's Day, everyone is a little bit Irish no matter what their family's background actually is. Well, on Paczki Day in Hamtramck and throughout Metro Detroit, we are all a little bit Polish. I look forward to celebrating my own "Polish heritage" with the people of Hamtramck on Paczki Day this year.●

100TH BIRTHDAY OF ELISE KIRKLAND YARDLEY

• Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Elise Kirkland Yardley, a daughter of South Carolina, on the occasion of her 100th birthday. I wish her many more happy birthdays.

Mrs. Yardley was born in Camden, South Carolina on February 16, 1899, in the historic Camden home known as Cool Springs. She was one of nine children born of Thomas and Fredricka Kirkland, and she is the last surviving member of her immediate family. The Kirkland family has South Carolina roots that stretch back to before the Revolutionary War, and it has produced many fine public servants and citizens. Notably among them are Lane Kirkland, Mrs. Yardley's nephew and the former President of the AFL-CIO.

After her childhood in Camden, Mrs. Yardley attended Winthrop College in Rock Hill, South Carolina, where she graduated in 1919 with a degree in teaching. She moved back to Camden and met Sherborne Yardley, the man who would become her husband of more than 50 years. The Yardleys eventually settled in Birmingham, Alabama, where Mr. Yardley worked for Republic Steel and Mrs. Yardley ran the household. Mr. Yardley passed away in 1978.

The Yardleys have three children: Thomas, an investment banker, John, a clinical pathologist, and Elizabeth, a homemaker. The family has grown to include eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. I am assured that Mrs. Yardley continues to serve as the presiding officer over the entire brood.

Mrs. Yardley still resides in Birmingham, although she returns regularly to Camden, where her entire family will gather in a few days to celebrate her 100th birthday. When they come together, her family will not only be observing Mrs. Yardley's centennial, but also honoring a lively, beautiful, and determined woman. They have much to celebrate.

As we pause briefly today to celebrate her long life, we do well to look back on what Mrs. Yardley has seen. She grew up in the rural South before that area had electrification. She has seen Halley's Comet pass this planet twice, watching it the first time in 1910, when her father gathered the family on their porch to marvel at the sight. She was alive to witness the in-

vention of the airplane, the automobile, the computer, and space travel. Her husband served in the Navy during the First World War, and her sons served in the military during the Second World War. Her grandfather died in the Civil War. She saw the end of the 19th century, the whole of the 20th century, and will doubtlessly be around to experience the new millennium.

I am pleased to rise today to honor this charming and accomplished woman. It seems fitting that I do so not only as the senior senator from her home state, but also as the one Member of this body who qualifies as Mrs. Yardley's peer. Mrs. Yardley and I both know the many rewards of a long and healthy life. I wish her continued good health and prosperity.●

TRIBUTE TO TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEM AND MEDIAONE

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to commend and congratulate Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. and MediaOne cable company for sponsoring a special educational event for students in the metropolitan Atlanta area commemorating Black History Month.

In recognition of Black History Month, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., a Time-Warner company, and MediaOne cable company are hosting a special educational event on Wednesday, February 10, 1999 at the "Magic" Johnson Theater in Atlanta, Georgia. This event will serve as a venue to screen Turner Network's Original film, "Passing Glory," and engage students in after-viewing discussion.

Inspired by a true story about two undefeated high school basketball teams in segregation-era Louisiana, "Passing Glory," is a powerful study about the discovery of mutual respect which crosses racial boundaries. Father Joseph Verrett ignites the sparks of the Civil Rights movement in New Orleans when he organizes a game between his own undefeated African American team and an undefeated prep school team from a white community. Along with his star player, he must overcome the fears and prejudices of the city's residents, both black and white, to forever change the established social order.

Turner Broadcasting and MediaOne are sponsoring this local educational event during Black History Month to offer students the opportunity to discuss the themes of the film, such as tolerance, teamwork, diversity, and racism. The forum will provide a venue for students to question civil rights experts and renowned sports figures about the history of segregation and the role that sports has played in bridging the racial divide.

This type of forum will motivate students to explore the history of race relations in this country and encourage dialogue which will foster understanding, the identification of common ground and a genuine commitment to afford equal opportunity and civil

rights for people of all races, religions and ethnic origins. It is the human rights of all mankind that underpins the dignity and humanity of all people and a worthy goal to which we must all continue to aspire.

Mr. President, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing and honoring Turner Broadcasting and MediaOne on many years of worthwhile work and achievements which have culminated with their most recent collaborative educational project on behalf of the many students of the Atlanta area in honor of Black History Month.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, February 27 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of William Jewell College, a small liberal arts college in Liberty, Missouri, and one of the oldest four-year colleges west of the Mississippi River.

William Jewell's reputation is far larger than its size. Because of the quality of its academic programs and facilities, and the breadth of its student and public service activities, Jewell is recognized as a preeminent liberal arts college in the Midwest. Jewell is classified among the nation's top 162 liberal arts colleges by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Jewell has been recognized in the prestigious "National Liberal Arts" category in the "America's Best Colleges" edition of U.S. News & World Report.

Affiliated with the Baptist church since its founding, the college places a strong emphasis on Christian values, character development, and public service. Jewell is listed regularly in the Templeton Foundation's Honor Roll of Character-Building Colleges.

The institution has awarded more than 14,000 baccalaureate degrees since its founding. While most of its students are from Missouri, the school attracts students from nearly half of the 50 states and more than a dozen foreign countries.

Alumni accomplishments at the highest levels of business, industry, government and the professions figure prominently in maintaining Jewell's reputation as a preeminent liberal arts college. And the college is frequently referred to as the "Campus of Achievement" due to the high percentage of Jewell students appearing in annual "Who's Who" directories.

And, on a personal note, Jewell graduates are certainly overrepresented on my Senate staff in terms of their percentage of the Missouri population!

While the school has a right to be proud of its achievements, what sets it apart from other colleges are the opportunities it offers all of its students, and the larger Kansas City community. William Jewell's Fine Arts Program, now in its 34th season, is a regional and national treasure, having presented