

bad faith. I am glad that this is the standard that is now in the bill.

A second problem with the bankruptcy bill as originally drafted was that it did not permit bankruptcy judges to waive the bankruptcy filing fee for indigent individuals. Individuals who petition for Chapter 7 bankruptcy must pay a filing fee of approximately \$175. There are many individuals who are so indigent by time they decide to seek the relief of bankruptcy, however, that they cannot even afford this relatively small fee. As a result, some individuals are actually too poor to go bankrupt. This is an absurd result. In such limited cases, we must empower a judge to decide that the filing fee can be waived.

Many individuals opposed to waiving the filing fee have argued that doing so would open the door to an enormous increase in the number of individuals taking advantage of the bankruptcy system. The idea is that "free" bankruptcies will lead to a bankruptcy bonanza.

Unfortunately, these individuals have failed to look at the record. In the appropriations bill for FY '94, Congress authorized a pilot in forma pauperis program in six federal judicial districts, including Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for three years. These pilots demonstrated that the program worked as intended, and did not significantly change the number or nature of bankruptcy filings.

In the six pilot districts, waivers were requested in only 3.4% of all non-business Chapter 7 cases, and waivers were granted in only 2.9% of all non-business Chapter 7 cases. This number was small enough that it did not lead to a significant increase in the number of overall Chapter 7 filings or a significant loss in revenue to the courts.

When the bankruptcy bill was before the Senate Judiciary Committee last Congress, I offered an amendment to permit the waiver of filing fees together with Senator FEINGOLD. Our amendment was defeated in Committee by a vote of 9-9. When we introduced our amendment on the floor of the Senate, however, the motion to table the amendment was rejected by a vote of 47-52, and the amendment was accepted into the bill. I am glad that this Congress our waiver provision has been included without the necessity of a vote.

Taken together, these two provisions ensure that all who are in need will have access to our bankruptcy courts and will enjoy the benefits of zealous advocacy on their behalf that is the cornerstone of our legal system. They are valuable improvements, and I commend Senators GRASSLEY, LEAHY, TORRICELLI and FEINGOLD for their inclusion in the bill.

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

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

ROBERT M. BRYANT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, the Federal Bureau of Investigation is perhaps the most renowned and respected law enforcement agency in the world. Though the FBI is famous for its laboratories, embracing new crime fighting techniques, and ability to "get its man", the real secret and heart of this organization's success has always been its people—the capable, courageous, and conscientious men and women who serve as Special Agents. Today, I rise to pay tribute to an individual who has given much to the FBI and the nation, Robert M. "Bear" Bryant, who will retire from his position as the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on November 30th.

Bear Bryant's career as a Special Agent began in 1968, when he hit the foggy and mean streets of Seattle, Washington, a distinctly different environment than his native Missouri. The atmosphere in Seattle, and across the nation, was combustible and there was just the right amount of tension to spur extensive criminal and violent activities. Without question, it was a busy and dangerous time to be making one's living as a lawman, and it was in such an environment that Special Agent Bryant cut his teeth in law enforcement and made a lifelong commitment to the Bureau.

Though he certainly had no inkling as a young Special Agent that his career would take him to the most senior levels of the FBI, Robert Bryant would spend three decades criss-crossing the United States as his career moved progressively forward and up the FBI chain of command. Subsequent assignments to Dallas, Headquarters in Washington, Salt Lake City, and Kansas City, as well as promotions to Supervisor, Permanent Inspector, and Special Agent in Charge, all helped to prepare Bear for his ultimately taking the three-in-command slot in the Bureau.

Surely one of the most rewarding assignments Bear had during his career was the time he spent as Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Office. When he took that job in 1991, the Capital was a violent city as a result of "crack wars" that were breaking out in urban areas from coast to coast. As the Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Office, Bear Bryant was responsible for establishing the "Bureau Safe Streets" program, which directed significant FBI resources toward combating street-level organized crime. The success of Mr. Bryant's efforts and leadership are evident. Thanks to his efforts, in conjunction with other agencies including the Met-

ropolitan Police, crime is down in this city today, especially those offenses associated with the crack trade. This program was so successful in the District of Columbia, it was adapted as a tactic for reducing violent crime in other cities and there are currently more than 160 taskforces in operation throughout the United States making streets safe again.

Those familiar with the FBI will tell you that service as the Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Office is an indication that someone is on their way to assuming one of the senior positions within the leadership of the Bureau, and in 1993, SAC Bryant was tapped for the very critical post of Assistant Director of the National Security Division. This segment of the Bureau is responsible for battling the considerable threats to national security from both outside and within the borders of the United States. During his tenure of the head of the National Security Division, Mr. Bryant was responsible for supervising and directing investigations that represented some of the most serious acts of espionage, treason, and terrorism that law enforcement has had to deal with in recent years including, the Oklahoma City bombing, the bombing of the Al-Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, as well as the espionage cases of Aldrich Ames, Earl Edwin Pitts, and Harold Nicholson.

Two-years-ago, Director Louis Freeh needed a new Deputy Director and given his considerable experience as an investigator, supervisor, and administrator, it came to no one's surprise that it was Bear Bryant who took the co-pilot's chair. The position of Deputy Director is one of great responsibility and importance, for it is this person who runs the day-to-day operations of the Bureau and its 28,000 agents and support personnel. In addition to assuring the smooth running of this global agency that is always on duty, Deputy Director Bryant was also tasked with drafting the Bureau's strategic plan for the next five years, a document which has been described as a "sea change" in FBI policy for it included a major reassessment of how resources are allocated and how the Bureau is going to do its job.

Robert "Bear" Bryant has had a career of impressive achievement and unflagging service. Through his work, he has taken criminals, spies, and terrorists off of our streets and put them into the prison cells where they belong, and in the process, he has helped to keep the United States and its citizens safe. After more than thirty-years since raising his right hand and taking the oath as a Special Agent, Deputy Director Bryant has decided to retire from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We are grateful for his diligent service, and I am sure that all my colleagues would join me in wishing Mr. Bryant, his wife of 33-years, Beth, and their three children Barbara, Dan, and Matt, happiness, health, and success in all their future endeavors.

REFUGEE PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the importance of the Refugee Protection Act of 1999 and to honor those most affected by this legislation.

The Refugee Protection Act of 1999 will continue a tradition that is as old as the United States itself. Our great country was founded by men and women who left their homeland for a better life in the new world. Many of these individuals escaped persecution in their home countries, made the difficult decision to leave what they knew behind and to take their chances in a new country where many did not know the language and customs or have friends or family. The Refugee Protection Act helps to continue this tradition by ensuring that those who seek entrance to the United States as refugees are given fair consideration and due process.

The Refugee Protection Act of 1999 would reinstate important protections against the deportation and refusal of refugees and asylum seekers who enter the United States from countries in which they face danger and persecution, whether it is due to ethnic, religious or political beliefs. Over the past few years Vermont has seen an increase in the number of refugees who have come to live in our great state. These refugees are well served by a number of agencies in Vermont which provide them help and promote their interests, including the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, the Tibetan Resettlement Project, the Tibetan Association of Vermont and Vermont Refugee Assistance. The Refugee Protection Act of 1999 will continue the example set in the state of Vermont, by welcoming refugees to our country and ensuring that all are given the full extent of protection they deserve.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss S. 1501, the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999. During the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Surface Transportation hearing on this bill, I brought the attention of the entire room to a deadly tractor trailer accident that occurred in Atlanta in the early morning hours of August 31, 1999. Two lives were lost as a result of that accident, but if the incident would have occurred at a busier time of day, I shudder to think of the fatalities that could have resulted.

In 1998, 221 people were killed in Georgia as a result of truck related crashes, and thousands more were injured. Recently, I met with two people who lost their families in truck related accidents. These stories are ones which I hope will become less frequent as a result of the action we are taking in S.

1501. This bill has the opportunity to improve safety for drivers and truckers.

S. 1501 would make the Office of Motor Carrier a separate office within the Department of Transportation (DOT), as opposed to being within the Federal Highway Administration as it is now. This action will allow Congress to statutorily mandate safety as the main focus of the office. Additionally, it promotes enforcement as a main goal and provides some teeth to this new agency's punitive actions.

However, there are some areas within the legislation that I believe need attention as we work to form a final bill. For example, I believe that a conflict of interest provision should be included. Without such a provision, the new agency could continue to award contracts to the very industry that operates under the federal motor carrier safety regulations the new agency will administer. An unbiased, multifaceted panel would be a better option to conduct sensitive research with federal money.

In fact, the DOT's Inspector General (IG) released a report to Congress that cites the too close relationship between the industry and the regulators who oversee it:

[A collaborative, educational, partnership-with industry] is a good approach for motor carriers that have safety as a top priority, but it has gone too far. It does not work effectively with firms that persist in violating safety rules and do not promptly take sustained corrective action.

I believe this finding supports the inclusion of conflict of interest standards in the final bill.

S. 1501 does a great deal to improve motor carrier safety in this country, but we can do more. I hope that the conferees on this bill will give strong consideration to including a conflict of interest provision in the final bill.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Monday, November 15, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,686,436,332,009.22 (Five trillion, six hundred eighty-six billion, four hundred thirty-six million, three hundred thirty-two thousand, nine dollars and twenty-two cents).

Five years ago, November 15, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,747,133,000,000 (Four trillion, seven hundred forty-seven billion, one hundred thirty-three million).

Ten years ago, November 15, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,916,316,000,000 (Two trillion, nine hundred sixteen billion, three hundred sixteen million).

Fifteen years ago, November 15, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,626,849,000,000 (One trillion, six hundred twenty-six billion, eight hundred forty-nine million).

Twenty-five years ago, November 15, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$481,430,000,000 (Four hundred eighty-one billion, four hundred thirty mil-

lion) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,205,006,332,009.22 (Five trillion, two hundred five billion, six million, three hundred thirty-two thousand, nine dollars and twenty-two cents) during the past 25 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN AND IRANIAN ASSETS BLOCKING—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 74

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 16, 1999.

20TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 75

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 701 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454; 5 U.S.C. 7104(e)), I have the pleasure of transmitting to you the twentieth Annual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for Fiscal Year 1998.

The report includes information on the cases heard and decisions rendered by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the General Counsel of the Authority, and the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 16, 1999.