

that real people go through every day. Struggles that involve agonizing questions like: "Should I eat today or take my medication?" or "Will I be able to heat my house this winter?"

Make no mistake, our nation's lack of saving for retirement is a tragedy in the making.

That is why I am so proud to join my colleagues in introducing this legislation.

A bill that will make it easier for Americans to put money aside, and a bill that will help move pension issues to the forefront of Americans' minds. A bill that will:

Expand coverage for small businesses because they have a harder time affording health care and retirement plans;

Enhance pension fairness for women because they fall into categories that have a harder time saving;

Increase the portability of pension plans so that when you change jobs you don't have to worry about where your savings will go;

Strengthen pension security and enforcement so you can rest easy at night, knowing your money is safe;

Reduce red tape so it's easier for employers to give their workers retirement options;

And encourage retirement education so that husbands and wives, parents and children, talk to each other—make plans for their future. And know what to expect tomorrow and down the road.

One aspect of the bill I am particularly proud of are the small business provisions. Thirty-eight million of the people in this country who do not have a pension plan work at small businesses. Eighty percent of all small business employees have no pension coverage.

In my state of Montana, more than 95 percent of our businesses are small businesses. And almost 9 out of 10 offer no pension plans. We cannot let these hard-working Americans down.

Currently, most small businesses can't afford pension plans. They would like to, but they just can't make ends meet.

Our bill makes it a smart business decision for small business owners to offer retirement plans.

I have made it my priority to work with members of the small business community, both back in Montana and nationally, to identify legislative solutions that will most readily enable small businesses to offer pension plans to their employees. While this bill does not include every recommendation we received, it does represent a collection of high-priority proposals which we believe could be supported by a bipartisan majority of Congress.

The major provisions in this bill which would help small businesses start and maintain pension plans include the following:

To help make pension plans more affordable we have included two new tax credits: one to help defray start-up costs and the other to defray the cost

of employer contributions to pension plans;

In addition, we provide for the elimination of some fees.

To address the problems the small business community has identified as a major impediment to establishing pension plans, we make significant changes in the top-heavy rules that limit employer contributions to plans.

To address concerns of our smallest businesses, who want to provide pensions but can only afford 'start-up' plans at first, we provide increases in income limits that apply to SIMPLE pension plans, along with a new, salary-reduction SIMPLE plan;

And for those employers that want to provide the security of a defined benefit plan for their employees but cannot because of the increased regulatory burden, we create a simplified defined benefit plan for small business.

These provisions are designed to address the problems of cost and complexity that are a barrier to so many small businesses. They will help small employers establish a pattern of saving for themselves and their employees.

Mr. President, I hope the Pension Coverage and Portability Act will spearhead a national debate on how to improve employer-provided pensions in this country.

This debate is essential if we are to achieve our goal of making America in the next century, not only strong as a nation, but strong as a community of individuals confident in the security of their financial futures.

This is a good, bi-partisan bill. It takes the positive steps we as a nation need to put our future in safe hands.

I am eager for the coming debate on this bill.

I hope it sparks a debate in the coffee shops and kitchen tables all across the country. Working together, and with this bill, we can turn a nation of spenders, into a nation of savers.●

NATIONAL SCHOOL VIOLENCE VICTIMS MEMORIAL DAY

● Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, school violence is a horrible, senseless tragedy that must not continue. Last year's horrific shootings in Jonesboro, AR; Pakucuh, KY; Pearl, MS; Richmond, VA; and Edinboro, PA, were meaningless acts of violence and should never have occurred. That's why I wholeheartedly support and have co-sponsored National School Violence Victims Memorial Day. This important resolution recognizes victims of school violence and encourages school administrators to conduct programs on March 24 designed to help prevent further occurrences of school violence.

Mr. President, the statistics on school violence are truly frightening. According to the National School Safety Center, there have been 225 school-associated violent deaths between July 1992 and June 1998. What is going on in our classrooms that our Nation's youth feel like the only way to resolve prob-

lems is through a gun? This resolution recognizes victims of school violence and says to our children, that there is a better way to resolve problems. By focusing community efforts on teaching students peaceful alternatives to conflict, we can equip our children to stop violent tendencies before they get out of control. This resolution is a step in the right direction and I urge my colleagues to put partisan politics aside and join me in encouraging local school districts and administrators to use their resources on violence prevention programs. All of us—teachers, administrators, parents—must work together to show our children peaceful alternatives before violence erupts in our schools again.●

ADMINISTRATION LETTER REGARDING STEEL IMPORTS

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, at the request of the Administration, I ask unanimous consent that a letter received today from Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, March 25, 1999.

Hon. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MOYNIHAN: Following up on our testimony at Tuesday's Senate Finance hearing on steel issues, we wanted to apprise you of the most recent developments in our steel policy and the effect on the steel industry. The President and the Vice President are deeply concerned about the impact on our steelworkers, communities, and companies of the recent surge in steel imports, and they are fully and actively committed to effectively addressing it. They are determined to maintain the United States' strong manufacturing base and the good jobs it provides by ensuring that our trading partners play by the rules governing international trade.

This Administration has implemented a comprehensive strategy that combines full and timely enforcement of our trade laws, expedited administrative action, and intensified engagement with major foreign steel producing nations to address unfair trade practices injuring our steel industry and its workers.

The import numbers for the past three months demonstrate clearly that our strategy is producing results. The preliminary data for February, released earlier today by the Commerce Department, show that total steel imports in February were 45 percent below November 1998 levels—and reached the second lowest monthly level since April 1996. Imports of hot-rolled steel have dropped 81 percent since November. We will work to sustain the positive trends of the past three months are sustained.

Our strategy has focused on Japan, Russia, and Korea, which together accounted for 80 percent of the surge in steel imports last year. Through strong public and private statements by the President and other senior Administration officials, we have put Japan on notice that we expect its imports to reach pre-crisis levels, or we stand ready to take appropriate action under our trade laws, including self-initiation of trade cases. We

have, in addition, negotiated agreements with Russia that will reduce our overall steel imports from Russia by almost 70 percent, and hot-rolled steel imports from Russia by almost 90 percent this year. We have sought firm commitments from Korea to ensure that its steel industry is fully privatized and placed on a market footing, including through the elimination of improper subsidies.

The declines in imports from these countries since November have been dramatic. Hot-rolled exports from Russia fell from over 600,000 metric tons in November to roughly ten tons in February—a nearly 100 percent decline. Imports of hot-rolled steel from Japan fell in that period from over 400,000 tons to less than 5000 tons—a nearly 99 percent drop. Hot-rolled imports from Korea dropped 35 percent since November, while total steel imports from Korea are down 17 percent. And total steel imports from Brazil, which, along with those from Russia and Japan, are subject to an ongoing anti-dumping investigation, have dropped 64 percent since November.

The Department of Commerce has taken forceful steps to eliminate dumping, including issuing critical circumstances determinations only 45 days after initiating dumping investigations on hot-rolled steel, a policy that could result in retroactive application of dumping duties back to last November. Last month, following an expedited investigation, Commerce announced—a full month ahead of the usual time schedule—preliminary determinations that exporters in Japan, Russia and Brazil have dumped hot-rolled steel into our market. The Commerce Department is currently enforcing more than 100 antidumping and countervailing duty orders and suspension agreements on steel products and is currently conducting 45 new steel investigations.

We will continue to closely monitor steel imports, and—in an unprecedented new policy—have made preliminary steel import statistics available to the public up to 25 days earlier than under past practice. This will help the Administration, industry, and workers identify and respond to import trends more quickly.

At the same time, last year's import surge demonstrated that we need to look closely at our trade laws to ensure that they deliver strong, effective relief in an expeditious manner, while remaining consistent with our international trade obligations. We believe the legislation introduced in the House by Congressman Levin and Houghton constitutes a constructive approach, and we stand ready to work with Members of Congress to develop a bill we can recommend that the President sign.

In contrast, we strongly oppose legislation mandating quotas because it would constitute a violation of our international obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and would not be in our nation's economic interest. We are the world's largest exporter, and our firms and workers benefit tremendously from the international trading rules we helped put into place. Quotas or other import restraints imposed outside of WTO-consistent processes contained our trade laws (such as through our "section 201" safeguards law or antidumping and countervailing duty laws) violate our international trade obligations. Such quotas or import restraints would not be based on a determination of whether the imports are causing or threatening serious injury, or whether unfair trade or subsidization is involved, as required by the WTO and our laws.

Our current trade laws allow U.S. industry and workers to seek such determinations, based upon which we can impose quotas or other trade remedies consistent with our

international trade obligations. In addition, when the procedures provided by our trade laws are followed, we can take into account the full range of U.S. industry and worker concerns and fashion remedies that do not result in additional market distortions, import shortages, excessive price hikes or retaliation that could harm U.S. export industries and customers.

This Administration firmly believes that the best way to address unfair trade practices or import surges is through vigorous and timely enforcement and use of strong U.S. trade laws that are consistent with our international obligations, and we and our colleagues stand ready to work with you to ensure that objective is fully realized.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. DALEY,
Secretary of Commerce.

CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY,
U.S. Trade Representative.●

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM

● Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedures of the Committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the first year of each Congress. The rules adopted by the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem to govern the Committee's procedures remain in effect and unchanged for the current Congress. Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, today I am submitting for printing in the RECORD a copy of the Rules of the Senate Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem.

The Rules follow:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM

(S. Res. 208, 105th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1998))

RULES OF PROCEDURE

(Adopted March 25, 1999)

I. CONVENING OF MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

1. *Meetings.*—The Committee shall meet to conduct Committee business at the call of the Chairman.

2. *Special meetings.*—The Members of the Committee may call additional meetings as provided in Senate Rule XXVI (3).

3. *Notice and agenda:*

(a) *Hearings.*—The Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing at least 1 week before its commencement.

(b) *Meetings.*—The Chairman shall give the Members written notice of any Committee meeting, accompanied by an agenda enumerating the items of business to be considered, at least 5 days in advance of such meeting.

(c) *Shortened notice.*—A hearing or meeting may be called on not less than 24 hours notice if the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing or meeting on an expedited basis. An agenda will be furnished prior to such a meeting.

4. *Presiding officer.*—The Chairman shall preside when present. If the Chairman is not present at any meeting or hearing, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside. Any Member of the Committee may preside over the conduct of a hearing.

II. CLOSED SESSIONS AND CONFIDENTIAL MATERIALS

1. *Procedure.*—All meetings and hearings shall be open to the public unless closed pursuant to paragraph 3 of this section. To close a meeting or hearing or portion thereof, a motion shall be made and seconded to go into closed discussion of whether the meeting or hearing will concern the matters enumerated in Rule II.3. Immediately after such discussion, the meeting or hearing may be closed by a vote in open session of a majority of the Members of the Committee present.

2. *Witness request.*—Any witness called for a hearing may submit a written request to the Chairman no later than 24 hours in advance for his examination to be in closed or open session. The Chairman shall inform the Committee of any such request.

3. *Closed session subjects.*—A meeting or hearing or portion thereof may be closed if the matters are consistent with Senate Rule XXVI (5)(b).

4. *Confidential matter.*—No record made of a closed session, or material declared confidential by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or report of the proceedings of a closed session, shall be made public, in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

5. *Radio, television, and photography.*—The Committee may permit the proceedings of hearings which are open to the public to be photographed and broadcast by radio, television, or both, subject to such conditions as the Committee may impose.

III. QUORUMS AND VOTING

1. *Reporting.*—A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum for reporting a resolution, recommendation, or report to the Senate.

2. *Committee business.*—Three voting members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of Committee business, other than a final vote on reporting, providing a minority Member is present. One Member shall constitute a quorum for the receipt of evidence, the swearing of witnesses, and the taking of testimony at hearings.

3. *Polling:*

(a) *Subjects.*—The Committee may poll (1) internal Committee matters including those concerning the Committee's staff, records, and budget; (2) authorizing subpoenas; and (3) other Committee business which has been designated for polling at a meeting.

(b) *Procedure.*—The Chairman shall circulate polling sheets to each Member specifying the matter being polled and the time limit for completion of the poll. If any Member so requests in advance of the meeting, the matter shall be held for meeting rather than being polled. The clerk shall keep a record of polls. If the Chairman determines that the polled matter is one of the areas enumerated in Rule II.3, the record of the poll shall be confidential. Any Member may move at the Committee meeting following a poll for a vote on the polled decision.

IV. SUBPOENAS

1. *Subpoenas.*—Subpoenas may be authorized by the Committee at a meeting of the Committee or pursuant to Rule III.3(a). Subpoenas authorized by the Committee may be issued over the signature of the Chairman after consultation with the Vice Chairman, or any member of the special committee designated by the Chairman after consultation with the Vice Chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman or the member signing the subpoena.

V. HEARINGS

1. *Notice.*—Witnesses called before the Committee shall be given, absent extraordinary circumstances, at least 48 hours notice, and