

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 2455. A bill to enhance Department of Education efforts to facilitate the involvement of small business owners in State and local initiatives to improve education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation, the Small Business Employment and Education Act of 2000, which is designed to enhance federal efforts to facilitate the involvement of small business owners and entrepreneurs in state and local initiatives to improve the quality of education programs for our young people.

Mr. President, last year, the Small Business Committee, of which I am a member, held a hearing on the challenges facing the small business community as a result of the failure of many of our educational institutions to teach students the basic skills that are necessary to succeed in today's work environment. The committee heard testimony from a number of small businesses and organizations about this growing problem.

And just how big is the problem? A 1999 American Management Association survey on workplace testing found that approximately 36 percent of employees tested for basic skills were found to be deficient in these skills, and small businesses reported deficiency rates well above the national average. Sixty percent of AMA-member companies reported that the availability of skilled manpower was scarce, and 67 percent believe that the shortages will continue.

A 1999 NFIB report found that 18 percent of NFIB members report that finding qualified labor is the single most important problem facing their business today.

Likewise, a 1999 poll of U.S. Chambers of Commerce found that 83 percent reported the ability—or lack thereof—to find qualified workers was among their biggest concerns, and 53 percent said education is the single most pressing public policy issue to them.

This information clearly illustrates that the business community, and small businesses in particular, have an important stake in the education of our youth. One of the most fundamental needs that any growing business faces is the need for employees with basic skills, and concerns have been expressed by the small business community that many students are not graduating with the basic skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and science—skills that need to succeed in today's workplace or become the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. President, the growth of high-skilled jobs is outpacing growth in all other fields. We must not allow basic skills to slip away if we are to remain competitive

in an increasingly aggressive and technology-based global market.

Small business is the driving force behind our economy, and as we authorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we must take into account the needs of businesses, and small businesses in particular. To that end, locally-driven initiatives are crucial. In order to create jobs, we must encourage small business expansion and foster small business entrepreneurship, and I believe that education initiatives are key to this.

Under the Small Business Employment and Education Enhancement Act, the Department of Education would disseminate information and facilitate the sharing of information designed to assist small businesses in working with school systems to improve our education institutions. For example, the agency would publish guidance materials, best practices, checklists and other materials on the World Wide Web, in Department of Education publications and articles, letters, links to related World Wide Web sites, public service announcements, and through other means at the Department's disposal.

The Department of Education would establish a centralized database of materials and act as a clearinghouse for information on initiatives that have proven successful.

The Secretary of the Department of Education would also establish an Office of Small Business Education to promote efforts to address the needs of small businesses through education programs. This division would work to remove any existing impediments to partnerships between school systems and small businesses, and propose solutions to education-related problems facing small businesses.

The goal of the bill I am introducing today is to facilitate partnerships between communities and businesses. I believe it should be easy for communities that are interested in designing business/school partnerships to get the information they need on how to do so. With access to kinds of sources envisioned in this legislation, communities would be able to model a program after a proven approach.

In addition, my bill authorizes technical assistance to be administered by the Office of Small Business Education to be used to provide guidance to small businesses, small business organizations, schools systems, and communities working cooperatively to enhance the teaching of basic skills.

The bill would also establish tax credits to encourage companies to provide work study, internship, or fellowship opportunities for students and teachers.

Finally, the bill includes a provision directing the Department of Education to conduct a study and report to Congress on the challenges facing small businesses in obtaining workers with adequate skills; an assessment of the impact on small businesses of the skills

shortage; the costs to small businesses associated with this shortage; and the recommendations for the Secretary on how to address these challenges.

Mr. President, I hope this legislation will provide a foundation for cooperative initiatives between small businesses and school systems, and I look forward to working with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and others as we prepare to reauthorize the elementary and secondary education act.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself
and Mr. KOHL):

S. 2458. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1818 Milton Avenue in Janesville, Wisconsin, as the "Les Aspin Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

LEGISLATION NAMING THE JANESVILLE POST
OFFICE IN MEMORY OF LES ASPIN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to rename the United States Post Office in my home town of Janesville, Wisconsin in honor of Les Aspin. I am joined by my colleague from Wisconsin, Senator KOHL. This bill is a companion to legislation introduced in the House by Congressman PAUL RYAN, who represents the First District of Wisconsin, which includes Janesville.

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of Les' first campaign for the First Congressional District seat in Wisconsin. I was a junior at Janesville Craig High School at the time, and I signed up as a volunteer on Les' campaign. He won that election after a tough recount in the primary, defeating the incumbent Congressman.

Following the campaign, I interned in his district office in Janesville during the summers of 1971 and in 1972. I am proud to say that during the next 25 years, Les and I had a continuing friendship, as he carved out a distinguished career in the United States House of Representatives, eventually rising to become the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, while I prepared for and began my own career.

Les Aspin served his country ably in many capacities. As an Army captain, he worked as an analyst in the Pentagon; he served on the staff of President John F. Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors; he represented Wisconsin for 22 years in Congress; he enthusiastically took on the giant task of steering the Defense Department into the uncharted waters of the post-Cold War era. Mr. Aspin served as Secretary of Defense under President Clinton and, at the time of his death in 1995, he was the chair of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, working on needed reforms in our intelligence communities.

Mr. President, Les Aspin was a man I deeply respected and admired, and I felt a profound sense of loss at his passing. Renaming the Janesville post office in his honor is a fitting way to remember a man who spent his life serving the people of Wisconsin and of the

United States. I hope my colleagues will support this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2458

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF LES ASPIN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1818 Milton Avenue in Janesville, Wisconsin, shall be known and designated as the “Les Aspin Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Les Aspin Post Office Building”.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues from Wisconsin in introducing this legislation to honor the memory of Les Aspin. Long before I entered politics, Les Aspin was a good friend of mine. I had the good fortune to serve with Les Aspin in Congress and to work with him when he served as Secretary of Defense. Les Aspin was truly dedicated to public service. He was genuinely challenged by the policy making process, and he was not hesitant in bringing his great intellectual gifts to bear on the problems of our time. He was a master of the Sunday morning talk shows, expounding on the issues of the day with his trenchant analyses. As chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Les Aspin was one of the most influential voices on U.S. defense policy.

His ascension to the chairmanship of the House Armed Services Committee was not without rancor, but even those who disagreed with Les respected his verve and determination.

When we lost Les Aspin, we lost a man of great vision. He was one of the few who realized that we needed a completely new way of thinking about national security policy in the post-cold-war era. He had the capacity to think through the difficult issues involved in developing such a policy. And, he was unrelenting in making us deal with those issues.

Even though Les Aspin became a powerful national figure, he never forgot his roots. Les represented the 1st Congressional District for 22 years and he cared deeply about the people of his district. He was aggressive in pursuing projects that would benefit the people of Wisconsin and he left no stone unturned in helping resolve constituent problems. He especially recognized the importance of reliable postal service in small and big towns alike. He was known to become personally involved in responding to complaints from constituents about postal service, often attending meetings across the district on postal issues. Les became intimately involved when the Janes-

ville Postal Office was moved from downtown, working to ensure that service was retained for all, especially small businesses and other postal patrons who relied on the downtown post office. Thus, naming the Janesville Post Office after Les Aspin is a most fitting tribute to his many years of service to the people of the First Congressional District.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and hope for its speedy passage.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. HELMS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KYL, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. MACK, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. GORTON, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 2459. A bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan in recognition of their service to the Nation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

THE REAGAN CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, it is with a deep sense of honor that I rise today to introduce legislation awarding former President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan the Congressional Gold Medal. Very few Americans have had as profound an impact upon this Nation and the world as this remarkable couple have.

In his eight years in office, President Reagan restored American's sense of pride and set us squarely on the course of prosperity we still enjoy today. He was instrumental in the collapse of the Soviet Empire that brought an end to the Cold War. Who could forget his ringing challenge from Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this Wall!” By 1989, to the amazement of the world, Germany was unified, and the Wall became a memory. Reagan's character, wit, and eloquence as the “Great Communicator” brought honor to the Office of the President and endeared him to us all.

As First Lady, Nancy Reagan's contributions were equally significant in their own right. She not only bestowed elegance and grace upon the White House, but she also brought critical leadership to righting the scourge of illegal drugs. Tirelessly encouraging our Nation's youth to “Just Say No,” Mrs. Reagan was instrumental in successfully reducing the rate of illegal drug use among our children.

The Reagans have continued to inspire us even after their years in the

White House. President and Nancy Reagan have confronted his Alzheimer's disease with the same dignity and bravery they displayed in office. Their fight inspires hope in millions of Americans who also must struggle with this disease. Our thoughts and best wishes for them are constant.

The leadership and dedication that President and Mrs. Reagan provided this Nation will undeniably endure throughout the course of human events. It is now time for a grateful people and Nation to say, “Thank you.” I am very appreciative of my many colleagues who join me today in sponsoring this legislation and invite others to join us in honoring President and Nancy Reagan.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2459

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Both former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan have distinguished records of public service to the United States, the American people, and the international community.

(2) As President, Ronald Reagan restored “the great, confident roar of American progress, growth, and optimism”, a pledge which he made before being elected to office.

(3) President Ronald Reagan's leadership was instrumental in uniting a divided world by bringing about an end to the cold war.

(4) The United States enjoyed sustained economic prosperity and employment growth during Ronald Reagan's presidency.

(5) President Ronald Reagan's wife Nancy not only served as a gracious First Lady but also as a proponent for preventing alcohol and drug use among the Nation's youth by championing the “Just Say No” campaign.

(6) Together, Ronald and Nancy Reagan dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and to bettering the quality of life in the United States and throughout the world.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan in recognition of their service to the Nation.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses) and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is hereby authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

(b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 2460. A bill to authorize the payment of rewards to individuals furnishing information relating to persons subject to indictment for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXPANSION OF REWARDS PROGRAM TO INCLUDE RWANDA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill to authorize payment of rewards to individuals furnishing information relating to persons subject to indictment for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda. This bill would add the masterminds of the Rwandan genocide to the list of individuals our rewards program is helping to track down, and this legislation will send those individuals a clear message—that there is no impunity for genocide, that the world will not forget, and that they cannot evade justice forever.

Six years ago today, a headline ran on the front page of the New York Times reading—“Rwandan Refugees Describe Horrors After a Bloody Trek.” The lead-in read as follows:

Their clothes are blood-soaked, and their wounds are eerily similar. Pursued by fear, the 450 or so men, women and children in the makeshift hospital here made the same journey across the border from Rwanda, nursing the deep gouges made by the machetes that struck their skulls, necks and hands.

Six years ago today the media was just waking up to the horror unfolding in Rwanda, although the killing had been going on for weeks. Six years ago today, the reporters filing their stories from Burundi and Zaire were still cautious about the word “genocide.” They still referred to “ancient tribal hatreds” as the source of the incomprehensible violence engulfing the tiny central African country. Six years ago today, the death toll in the Rwandan genocide continued to mount while the international community stood by and watched, despite clear warnings, and despite the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide that committed signatories to act. Six years ago, U.S. leadership failed, the international community floundered, and the global bond of basic human decency broke, leaving the people of Rwanda to face terror alone.

Mr. President, we know today that the genocide was not a series of spontaneous acts; it was not about crowds gone wild or tribal bloodlust. It was carefully planned and centrally directed. Extra machetes had been imported, militias groups were in place,

and incitements to murder had become a regular element of programming on the hate-radio station. The planners targeted not only ethnic Tutsis, but also politically moderate Hutus who threatened their grip on power. We know today that individual people—leaders and planners—are responsible for the deaths of some 800,000 people, and that the blame for these atrocities cannot be heaped on some imagined cultural failing or the flaws of the human heart in general.

Holding those individuals responsible for the genocide accountable for their actions is the only remaining opportunity for the international community to do the right thing with regard to the events of 6 years ago. For this reason, I have consistently supported the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, known as the ICTR. The ICTR was created by the United Nations Security Council in November 1994 to prosecute persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Rwanda during 1994. Its structure mirrors that of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the ICTY.

I have come to this floor in the past to raise the issue of parity between the ICTY and the ICTR. In particular, I have pointed out that whereas the ICTY has the authority to prosecute individuals for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed since 1991 through the present, the ICTR's mandate covers only those acts committed within Rwandan borders during 1994. Last year, the Senate approved an amendment that I offered to the State Department authorization bill requiring a report on the merits of expanding the mandate to the ICTR in space and time, both to deter further abuses and to hold the perpetrators of the continuing atrocities in the Great Lakes accountable for their actions.

Even if we accept the confines of the current mandate, I fear that the ICTR is being given short shrift. Under current U.S. law, the Secretary of State can confer with the Attorney General and, through the rewards program that offers incentives to turn in terrorists and other international villains, pay a reward to any individual furnishing information leading to the arrest or conviction in any country of any person who is the subject of an indictment of the ICTY. Similarly, the reward may be made to any individual furnishing information leading to the transfer to or conviction by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. But there is no such provision for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

It is situations like these that feed perceptions of a double-standard in American foreign policy, wherein African lives are somehow less valuable than European ones, and African atrocities are somehow more acceptable. That perceived double-standard undermines American credibility and casts

doubt on our commitment to the values we hold most dear, the values at the very foundation of our national identity.

The ICTR is not perfect, but it has been responsible for the first convictions for the crime of genocide ever to be issued by an international court. It has been the first international body to recognize rape as a crime of genocide. And knowledgeable observers agree that it has made a great deal of progress since its early days, and that it has gone further to bring “big fish” to justice than the ICTY. But more needs to be done. I will submit for the RECORD an article from the most recent issue of *The Economist*, headlined “Still Wanted,” which details some of the challenges the international community faces in bringing the perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide to justice. The United States should assist in these efforts. And the existing law that I propose amending ensures that the State Department and the Department of Justice—not the U.N.—will govern the offering, administration, and payment of rewards. Six years after the Rwandan genocide, six years after the slaughter of 800,000 people, including those indicted by the ICTR in the rewards program is the very least we can do.

I yield the floor, and ask unanimous consent that the bill and article be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2460

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF REWARDS PROGRAM TO INCLUDE RWANDA.

Section 102 of the Act of October 30, 1998 (Public Law 105-323) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**OR RWANDA**” after “**YUGOSLAVIA**”;

(2) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting “or the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda” after “Yugoslavia”; and

(3) in subsection (c)–

(A) by inserting “(1)” immediately after “REFERENCE.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) For the purposes of subsection (a), the statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda means the statute contained in the annex to Security Council Resolution 955 of November 8, 1994.”.

[From the *Economist*, Apr. 22, 2000]

STILL WANTED

Will Felicien Kabuga or Tharcisse Renzaho ever be brought to justice? They are still at large, among several hundred other senior Rwandans who in 1994 planned and promoted the genocide of up to 1m people. Mr. Kabuga was a businessman who financed the murderous Hutu militias, supplied them with machetes and was part owner of Radio Mille Collines, the radio station that broadcast the orders for genocide. Colonel Renzaho was the governor of the capital, Kigali. He directed the killing squads there, ordering them to make sure that “none can escape”, and he was a member of the committee that co-ordinated the slaughter throughout the country.

So far, 44 people have been detained by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda,

based in Arusha in Tanzania. Seven have been convicted, of whom six are on appeal. The prosecutor is still looking for about 35 people. Although names are not published for fear of alerting men on the run, Mr. Kabuga and Colonel Renzaho are almost certainly on the list. Arrested or hunted, they are still only a small proportion of the people who planned and executed the fastest and most orderly genocide in history.

While the UN tribunal grinds on in Arusha, the Rwandan government is busy bringing genocide criminals before its own courts. If the main perpetrators are to be caught, and the evidence found to convict them, the two should co-operate. But their relationship, though it now shows signs of improvement, has long been unhappy. The government objects, among other things, to the money spent on the tribunal, which it feels could have been better used to rebuild a justice system in Rwanda.

The government has so far detained more than 120,000 people accused of genocide, of whom over 2,000 have been convicted and 300 sentenced to death. At the end of last year, it produced a list of 2,133 people suspected of planning or directing the genocide. Most of them are still at large.

Many of the missing villains are in Congo. Senior military officers fled there after their genocidal government was defeated by the Rwandan Patriotic Front, which now rules the country. In Congo, they regrouped soldiers and militiamen responsible for the killing. Since Rwanda became involved in Congo's civil war, many of the Rwandan militiamen are fighting on the side of president Laurent Kabila, against the Congolese rebels who, in their turn, are backed by the Rwandan government. So long as Congo's fighting continues, the missing Rwandans will be difficult to arrest—and they are making sure that the war continues.

Others are in Tanzania. Hutus from both Rwanda and Burundi are well established in the administration of western Tanzania from where, probably without the knowledge of the central government, they protect some of the killers. Others, again, are scattered around the world, some with false identities. Mr. Kabuga was said to have been spotted in Switzerland but is now thought to be in Kenya. Colonel Renzaho is probably in Congo. Governments do not seem to be making much effort to find them. Those who have been discovered—in Britain, America, France, Belgium and Denmark—have often been unmasked by journalists.

By contrast, western security services expend considerable energy on tracking down war criminals from the conflicts in former Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav war-crimes tribunal in The Hague has so far issued over 90 indictments, and arrested more than 40 suspects, of whom 15 have been sentenced. It has named 29 people it is still looking for. So far as is known, they are all still in the region, either in power in Serbia or hiding in Bosnia.

It is much harder to find the dispersed Rwandans. Moreover, even if they were caught and sent to the tribunal, gathering evidence to prosecute them would be difficult. Persuading witnesses to leave their homes and come to Arusha to give evidence, and then providing them with protection when they return, is fraught with trouble. The horrible fact is that the only living witnesses to some of the worst Rwandan massacres are the perpetrators themselves.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 2462. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE CAT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my distinguished colleague from Louisiana, Senator JOHN BREAUX, in introducing legislation that would establish the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. Cat Island is one of the last remaining tracts in the Lower Mississippi River Valley that is still influenced by the natural dynamics of the river. The 36,500 acre site supports one of the largest densities of virgin bald cypress trees in the entire Mississippi River Valley. The site is also the home of the nation's largest cypress tree. Cat Island is important habitat for several declining species of songbirds and thousands of wintering waterfowl. The site is also home to the Louisiana black bear and high populations of deer, squirrel, turkey, and furbearing mammals such as mink and bobcats. We introduce this important legislation with the purpose of preserving and enhancing this valuable natural resource for our nation and generations to come.

Mr. President, I recently had the good fortune of visiting Cat Island with Senator BREAUX and representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior, and I must tell you I was overwhelmed by the breathtaking beauty and bountiful natural resources of this site. Cat Island truly represents one of the most valuable and productive wildlife habitats in the United States. The site has high value for public uses such as outdoor recreation, environmental education, ecotourism, hunting, and fishing.

There has been a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for protecting and enhancing the natural resources of Cat Island. Citizens and elected officials from the State of Louisiana, representatives from national environmental conservation organizations and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have supported our efforts in developing this important legislation. The Police Jurors of West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, have passed a resolution in support of establishing the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge. The Governor of Louisiana and the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries have endorsed creating the refuge. The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana has generously agreed to underwrite the operation and maintenance cost for the Fish and Wildlife Service during the first three years of operation of the refuge. The conservation organization will also facilitate the acquisition of the site and the transfer of ownership to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Most recently, the President allocated \$4 million in his fiscal year 2001 budget for land acquisitions at the Cat Island site.

Mr. President, Cat Island clearly represents one of the best examples of Louisiana's unique natural heritage and is deserving of inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System. This

legislation supports the aims of the Lower Mississippi River Aquatic Resources Management Plan and the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2462

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) as the southernmost unleveed portion of the Mississippi River, Cat Island, Louisiana, is 1 of the last remaining tracts in the lower Mississippi Valley that is still influenced by the natural dynamics of the river;

(2) Cat Island supports some of the highest densities of virgin bald cypress trees in the Mississippi River Valley, including the champion cypress tree of the United States, which is 17 feet wide and has a circumference of 53 feet;

(3) Cat Island is important habitat for several declining species of forest songbirds and supports thousands of wintering waterfowl;

(4) Cat Island supports high populations of deer, turkey, and furbearing mammals, such as mink and bobcats;

(5) forested wetland on Cat Island—

(A) represents 1 of the most valuable and productive wildlife habitats in the United States; and

(B) has high recreational value for hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers, nature photographers, and others; and

(6) protection and enhancement of the resources of Cat Island through the inclusion of Cat Island in the National Wildlife Refuge System would help meet the habitat protection goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, signed by the Minister of the Environment of Canada and the Secretary in May 1986.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge established by section 3(a).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND ACQUISITION OF REFUGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System to be known as the “Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge” in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The Refuge shall consist of the land and waters (including any interest in the land or waters) acquired by the Secretary for the Refuge under—

(1) subsection (d); or

(2) any other law.

(c) NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall publish a notice of the establishment of the Refuge—

(1) in the Federal Register; and

(2) in publications of local circulation in the vicinity of the Refuge.

(d) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall seek to acquire for inclusion in the Refuge, by purchase, exchange, or donation, approximately 36,500 acres of land and adjacent waters (including interests in the land or adjacent waters) of Cat Island, Louisiana, as depicted on the map entitled “Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge, Proposed”, dated

February 8, 2000, which shall be available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

SEC. 4. PURPOSES OF REFUGE.

The purposes of the Refuge are—

(1) to conserve, enhance, and restore the native bottomland community characteristics of the lower Mississippi alluvial valley (including associated fish, wildlife, and plant species);

(2) to conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to maintain and assist in the recovery of animals (such as the Louisiana black bear) and plants that are listed as endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(3) to conserve, enhance, and restore habitats as necessary to contribute to the migratory bird population goals and habitat objectives as established through the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.);

(4) to achieve the habitat objectives of the Lower Mississippi River Aquatic Resources Management Plan, prepared by the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee;

(5) to authorize the Secretary, through consultation with Federal, State, and local agencies and adjacent landowners, to assist in the restoration of forest habitat linkages between refuge land and other land to reverse past impacts associated with habitat fragmentation on wildlife and plant species;

(6) to provide compatible opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation; and

(7) to encourage the use of volunteers and to facilitate partnerships among the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation organizations, and other non-Federal entities to promote public awareness of the resources of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System (including public participation in the conservation of those resources).

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer all land and waters (including any interest in land or waters) acquired under section 3(d) in accordance with—

(1) the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.);

(2) Public Law 87-714 (commonly known as the "Refuge Recreation Act") (16 U.S.C. 460k et seq.); and

(3) the purposes of the Refuge described in section 4.

(b) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may use such additional statutory authority as is available to the Secretary to conduct projects and activities at the Refuge in accordance with this Act, including projects or activities to conserve or develop—

(1) wildlife and natural resources;

(2) water supplies;

(3) water control structures;

(4) outdoor recreational activity programs; and

(5) interpretive education programs.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary for—

(1) the acquisition of interests in land and waters described in section 3(d)(1); and

(2) the development, operation, and maintenance of the Refuge.

Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator LANDRIEU in offering legislation to establish the Cat

Island National Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

The Mississippi River has provided for the commerce, transportation, and nourishment that has sustained Louisianians for over 300 years. Over time, communities have adapted to the unique environment that exists near the River. Today marks a milestone in the effort to preserve one of the last remaining tracts in the lower Mississippi Valley that is still influenced by the natural dynamics of the great River.

The area known as Cat Island is the southernmost unleveed portion of the Mississippi River. It is actually a peninsula of bottomland hardwood forest adjacent to the River and located thirty miles north of our state capital at Baton Rouge. It supports one of the highest densities of virgin bald cypress trees in the entire Mississippi River Valley, including the nation's champion cypress tree, which is 17 feet wide and 53 feet in circumference. By designating this area as a National Wildlife Refuge, we aim to protect the habitat of several declining species of forest songbirds, thousands of wintering waterfowl, and breeding ground for Wood Ducks. The area also supports high populations of deer, squirrel, turkey, and furbearers such as bobcat and mink.

The Cat Island Project represents a collaborative effort among several entities who have remained committed to its conservation. The Nature Conservancy spearheaded the effort, marshaled public support from Louisianians of all stripes, and worked diligently to secure the necessary funding for the initial acquisition of land from commercial and private landowners in the area. In fact, the Migratory Bird Commission provided the seed money to begin the acquisition process. Senator LANDRIEU and I have worked hard to find appropriate sources of federal funding to contribute to the cause, and we are delighted that the President has included \$4 million for the Cat Island Project in his budget request for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We have enjoyed the support of officials from the Department of the Interior as well. Assistant Secretary David Hayes visited the site of the planned refuge along with Senator LANDRIEU and me in February. As I said, this project is the result of the good faith, dedication and continued cooperation of many players. I express my sincere gratitude and congratulations to all who have been involved.

The final piece in the completion of this project is the designation of the land as a National Wildlife Refuge. I am proud to offer legislation that will ensure the conservation of wild Louisiana for future generations to experience.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Is-

land (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to assist the States and local governments in assessing and remediating brownfield sites and encouraging environmental cleanup programs, and for other purposes.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 309, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a member of the uniformed services shall be treated as using a principal residence while away from home on qualified official extended duty in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of such residence.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) and the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 317, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion for gain from the sale of farmland which is similar to the exclusion from gain on the sale of a principal residence.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to remove the limitation that permits interstate movement of live birds, for the purpose of fighting, to States in which animal fighting is lawful.

S. 351

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 351, a bill to provide that certain Federal property shall be made available to States for State and local organization use before being made available to other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to provide for the granting of refugee status in the United States to nationals of certain foreign countries in which American Vietnam War POW/MIAs or American Korean War POW/MIAs may be present, if those nationals assist in the return to the United States of those POW/MIAs alive.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 662

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 662, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or