

products that may affect the safety of vehicles and equipment in the United States.

The legislation will increase the civil penalties for notification of reporting violations; will establish greater cooperation with foreign transportation safety agencies with the exchange of safety-related information and the recall of defective products; and requires additional testing to determine that a vehicle or equipment meets safety requirements.

I am advised that there is coordination with the House and an excellent opportunity that this legislation will be completed before we finish our term, which would be exemplary and which would really show the American people that when we have a very dangerous situation brought to our attention, we will take action.

I am very pleased to see this legislation will include the proposals I have for criminal penalties. In a floor statement made on September 7, 2000, I documented 10 illustrative cases where deadly products had been put on the market knowing them to be deadly and knowing that they contained the risk of death or serious bodily injury. That constitutes the requisite malice for a prosecution. That will be an effective way of dealing with this issue.

The remedy of punitive damages has been illusory. Take the celebrated Pinto case where a calculation was made by Ford that it was cheaper to pay the damages resulting from injuries and deaths than it was to relocate the gas tank. A jury came in with an award of \$125 million, later reduced to \$3.5 million, which is the customary response where these punitive damage awards have been entered.

COMPLIMENTING PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I compliment the Palestinian Council, the Palestinian Authority, and Chairman Arafat on their decision not to declare an independent state which had been proposed for September 13. I had urged Chairman Arafat not to declare an independent state when that was proposed last year, and I said at that time that if they desisted, I would make a statement on the Senate floor complimenting them on moving forward.

I say today that their decision is an important one, a good one, and one which will provide a better basis for further negotiations on the Mideast peace process.

ISSUANCE OF A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP HONORING JOHN B. KELLY, JR.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the Olympic Games, set to begin today in Sydney, Australia, will feature rowing, which brings to mind the great rowing tradition which has been a part of Philadelphia for generations. It also brings to mind John B. Kelly, Jr., a

Philadelphia native who not only made great strides in the sport of rowing, but who personified the ideal of an Olympic athlete.

John B. Kelly, Jr., better known as "Jack" or "Kel," came from a distinguished family, on and off the water. His father won three gold medals in sculling in the 1920 and 1924 Olympics. His sister Grace was the late Princess of Monaco.

After graduating from the William Penn Charter School, Jack enlisted in the United States Navy. After a short term of service, he attended the University of Pennsylvania where we were college friends in the late 1940's and early 1950's. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma social fraternity and was honored with a membership in the Sphinx Senior Society for his extracurricular accomplishments. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an ensign, combining duty on a destroyer with his preparation for the 1952 Olympic games in Helsinki.

By the time he hung up his oars, he had advanced the cause and the international name of American rowing and American sports. Jack was an eight-time national single sculls champion, four-time Olympian and bronze medalist in single sculls in 1956, and winner of two gold medals in the Pan American Games in 1955 and 1959. He was also the winner of the Diamond Sculls in the Henley Regatta in 1947 and 1949, a race from which the British had banned his father, purportedly because he worked with his hands and was not considered to be a gentleman.

The winner of the 1947 James E. Sullivan award as the nation's outstanding amateur athlete, Jack was a leading advocate for amateur sports for more than 30 years. Following the 1960 Olympic games, Jack became active in the local swimming program in the Middle Atlantic Association of the Amateur Athletic Union. In 1970 he was elected President of the National Amateur Athletic Union, the youngest person to hold that office in more than 80 years. In 1985 he assumed the presidency of the United States Olympic Committee, and served in that capacity for three weeks until his untimely death on March 2.

Philadelphia honored its native son by erecting a statue of Jack rowing, along the Schuylkill River, and also by renaming the drive along the boat-houses on the Schuylkill River in honor of the Kelly family. I believe it would be appropriate for the United States to honor Jack through the creation of a commemorative postage stamp, which would pay tribute to his accomplishments as a world class athlete and to his contributions to our nation and to international athletics and goodwill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in calling upon the Postmaster General to issue this stamp in a timely manner.

The Olympics started today. Jack Kelly, Jr., has a monument on East River Drive which was renamed "Kelly

Drive" in honor of the Kelly family, a very distinguished Philadelphia family. Father John B. Kelly, Sr., an Olympic gold medalist, was once denied entry into the Henley Regatta because he was someone who worked with his hands, a bricklayer; therefore, not considered a gentleman and, therefore, not entitled to enter into the competition.

His son John B. Kelly, Jr., made up for all of it. I knew young Jack Kelly as a student at the University of Pennsylvania where we attended together. The family achieved perhaps its greatest notoriety from Princess Grace of Monaco being Jack Jr.'s sister.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to implore my colleagues to work with me in moving the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act, S. 2045, toward enactment.

One of our greatest priorities is—and ought to be—keeping our economy vibrant, and expanding educational opportunities for America's children and its workers.

That is my priority for this country and that is my priority for my home State of Utah.

I am proud of the growth and development in my own home State—growth that has made Utah one of the leaders of the world in our high tech economy.

Utah's information technology vendor industry is among Utah's largest industries, and among the top 10 regions of IT—or information technology—activity in the U.S.

Notably, Utah was listed among the top ten IT centers in the world by Newsweek magazine in November 1998.

The growth of information technology is nowhere more evident and dramatic than in my own home State of Utah.

According to the Utah Information Technologies Association, our IT vendor industry grew nearly 9 percent between 1997 and 1998, and consists of 2,427 business enterprises.

While I am on the subject, let me just also note that just a couple of weeks ago, a major high-tech company in Utah announced the layoff of several hundred Utahns. We have several indications that alternative jobs are available.

I continue to watch this closely. I certainly want these skilled and talented people to remain in our State rather than being hired by other companies in other States.

In Utah and elsewhere, our continued economic growth, and our competitive edge in the world economy require an adequate supply of highly skilled high tech workers. This remains one of our great challenges in the 21st century, requiring both short- and long-term solutions.

The American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act, S. 2045, contains both.

In the short-term, a tight labor market, increasing globalization, and a burgeoning economy have combined to increase demand for skilled workers well beyond what was forecast when Congress last addressed the issue of temporary visas for highly skilled workers in 1998. Therefore, my bill, once again, increases the annual cap for the next three years.

That, Mr. President, is nothing more than a short term solution to the workforce needs in my State and across the country.

The longer term solution lies with our own children and our own workers; and in ensuring that our education and training of our current and future workforce matches the demands in our high tech 21st century global economy.

Thus, working with my colleagues, I have included in this bill strong, effective, and forward-looking provisions directing the more than \$100 million in fees generated by the visas toward the education and retraining of our children and our workforce.

Those provisions are included in the substitute which I am prepared to offer today.

We are here, today, however, as this session of Congress comes to a close, with the fate of this critical legislation extremely uncertain.

Frankly, when this bill was reported by the Committee, I thought we were on track to move this rapidly through the Senate.

I offered to sit down with other Members—including my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY, my colleague from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and my colleague from Connecticut, Senator LIEBERMAN—to work with them on provisions regarding education and training. We have done that.

And, I as I have noted, I am pleased to report that the substitute which I intend to offer to this bill, reflects the majority of their ideas and proposals.

Quite unexpectedly, however, the White House weighed in with what sounded to me like an ultimatum tying passage of this to other unrelated, costly and far reaching immigration amendments.

Mr. President, I hope we can get this done.

I know the majority leader filed cloture earlier today on a motion to proceed.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming days to try and avoid a confrontational process.

Again, I hope we can get this done for American workers and children and for our continued economic expansion.

I am grateful to be able to say these words today because I want to move this bill forward. It is in the best interest of our country. It is in the best interest of our high-tech community. We are talking about nanotechnology technology, quantum computers, all

kinds of educational projects in which, literally, this Nation needs to be the leader. The only way we are going to be the leader is if we continue to accentuate the positive by having the best high-tech minds working with us.

Many of these people for whom we want to allow visas are people who have been educated in our country, given our education and given our information. Frankly, it is much to our advantage to have some of them have the privilege of working here before they go back to their own countries. This bill will help to resolve that. To have it enmeshed in politics, as the White House has tried to do, is a tremendous, incredible mistake.

I hope the President and those who are advising him will back off. Let us pass this bill and keep the United States at the forefront of the high-tech revolution.

That is my goal. As everyone knows, I have worked very hard in this area. I daresay there is probably no more important bill in this Congress, as far as the information technology industry and the high-tech community are concerned, than this particular bill. There are others that rise to its equal, but nothing rises beyond it.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed in morning business and to consume such time as I may need.

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

COMPLETING THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I know we are at or near the close of business of today's session of the Senate. I thought it important that we end up the week with a bit of an analysis of where we are and where we have to get in the next several weeks to complete the business of Government, to fund the necessary agencies, and to be responsible to the American people as it relates to the expenditure of their tax dollars.

As most all Americans understand, we are now, fortunately, living with a balanced budget at our Federal Government level; that is, current operating budgets. Many of us in Congress for decades fought to get this budget balanced. It became balanced during a period of unprecedented economic growth in our country. I believe that a balanced budget contributed dramatically to that growth.

At the same time as we worked to continue to balance that budget, many

of us had wanted to now take some of the unprecedented surpluses of tax dollars that are coming into us and return them to the American taxpayer. We tried to do that this year in two forms: In the reduction or the elimination of the marriage tax penalty, about \$1,400 per married couple; and in the near elimination of the death tax; in other words, the taxing of citizens of their wealth or their estates upon the incident of death. Those are two items extremely popular with the American people.

Yet in trying to do that, we were told by this administration and by many of my colleagues on the other side that it would wipe out this surplus tax dollar amount—many statements such as that that couldn't be any further from the truth. The reality is that for those two tax packages that were passed by Congress and now vetoed by the President, we are talking of about a dime, one dime out of every surplus dollar, your surplus tax dollar, to be projected to come in to our Government over the next decade.

Be that as it may, that is a problem we face. So here we are now working to finalize the work of the Government in the next 3 weeks, and we have an inordinate amount of work to get done. One of my frustrations as a leader on this side in trying to move the process along is that, for the last 6 months, we have heard the rumor, and we have watched the actions of the minority leader and the folks on the other side, which would indicate there was a stalling tactic going on, that somehow they didn't want to get the work done in a timely fashion, that they constantly objected to unanimous consents, and they asked for votes time after time on issues we had already voted on and had been thoroughly debated on the floor of the Senate, from which the political answers had come flowing forth on the debate.

Let me give a couple of examples. I am one of those who always comes to the floor when there is a gun debate. Somehow, the other side is saying we have to have more votes on gun issues. Well, I will say this: We have already had 13 votes this session on the gun issue. I am not quite sure how many more we need, or will need, to express to the American people the intent of Republicans versus Democrats versus individual Senators as it comes to this issue.

We have had rollcall votes on amendments 403 times; Democrats have proposed 231 and Republicans have proposed 172. Many of these amendments never would make it into policy and had been refused by the authorizing committees but were here either for time taken or for political expressions being made—not for substantive policy reform because we knew it would not happen.

On the issue of "Kennedy Care," or health care, we have already had eight votes; and we still are being asked to take more votes on the prescription