

up. I will begin with one, and there will be others that will be addressed. All the matters, of course, in wrap-up will be offered in consultation with the Republican leader and have his consent.

**HOMESTAKE MINE CONVEYANCE
ACT OF 2001**

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1389, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1389) to provide for the conveyance of certain real property in South Dakota to the State of South Dakota with indemnification by the United States Government, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2161

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered and agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2161) was agreed to.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate has approved a modified version of S. 1389, the Homestake Mine Conveyance Act of 2001.

This important legislation will enable the construction of a new, world-class scientific research facility deep in the Homestake Mine in Lead, SD. Not only will this facility create an opportunity for critical breakthroughs in physics and other fields, it will provide unprecedented new economic and educational opportunities for South Dakota.

Just over a year ago, the Homestake Mining Company announced that it intended to close its 125-year-old gold mine in Lead, SD, at the end of 2001. This historic mine has been a central part of the economy of the Black Hills for over a century, and the closure of the mine was expected to present a significant economic blow to the community.

In the wake of this announcement, you can imagine the surprise of South Dakotans to discover that a committee of prominent scientists viewed the closure of the mine as an unprecedented new opportunity to establish a National Underground Science Laboratory in the United States. Because of the extraordinary depth of the mine and its extensive existing infrastructure, they found that the mine would be an ideal location for research into

neutrinos, tiny particles that can only be detected deep underground where thousands of feet of rock block out other cosmic radiation.

Recently, I received a letter from Dr. John Bahcall. Dr. Bahcall is a scientist at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. He was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1998, and is a widely recognized expert in neutrino science and an authority on the potential of an underground laboratory. In a recent letter to me, he explained, "There are pioneering experiments in the fields of physics, astronomy, biology, and geology that can only be carried out in an environment that is shielded from the many competing phenomena that occur on the surface of the earth. These experiments concern such fundamental and applied subjects as: How stable is ordinary matter? What is the dark matter of which most of our universe is composed? What new types of living organisms exist in deep underground environments from which sunlight is excluded? How are heat and water transported underground over long distances and long times?"

This research, as well as other research that could be conducted in the mine, has the potential to answer fundamental questions about our universe. The National Science Foundation is already considering a \$281 million proposal for the construction of this laboratory.

I want to thank all of those who have been involved in the development of this legislation. I particularly appreciate the hard work and support of Governor Bill Janklow of South Dakota and officials with the Homestake and Barrick mining companies, who helped us to reach agreement on this legislation. I also want to thank my colleague, Senator JOHNSON, a cosponsor of this bill, for all of his work. In particular, Senator JOHNSON's ability to secure the \$10 million in transition funds that will bridge the gap between Homestake's closure and the establishment of the laboratory has been critical to this effort.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter from Dr. John Bahcall be printed in the RECORD.

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

PROFESSOR JOHN N. BACHALL,
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY,
Princeton, NJ, November 8, 2001.

The Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR TOM DASCHLE: I would like to summarize for you the scientific importance of the National Underground Science Laboratory to be located in the Homestake Gold Mine near Lead, South Dakota.

There are pioneering experiments in the fields of physics, astronomy, biology, and geology that can only be carried out in an environment that is shielded from the many competing phenomena that occur on the surface of the earth. These experiments concern such fundamental and applied subjects as: How stable is ordinary matter? What is the dark matter of which most of our universe is composed? What new types of living orga-

nisms exist in deep environments from which sunlight is excluded? How are heat and water transported underground over long distances and long times?

American scientists have been among the world leaders in research in these underground studies. But we have had to travel to Japan, to Italy, to Russia, to South Africa, to Finland, to India and to other countries in order to carry out our experiments. During the past year, I had the privilege of chairing a national committee of distinguished research scientists that was charged with the task of recommending whether or not the United States should develop its own national laboratory to support the underground scientific work of physicists, astronomers, biologists, and geologists. We were also asked to make a recommendation as to whether the expenditure of funds for this purpose would, in a highly constrained budgetary situation, be beneficial to the scientific enterprise.

The committee had many meetings in this country and in other countries where major underground scientific facilities are currently active. The committee reached two conclusions. First, it is in the best interest of the United States to develop a national underground science laboratory only if this facility would be the best in the world. Secondly, the Homestake Gold Mine could be converted into the premier underground laboratory in the world. The recommendations of the committee have been endorsed by panels of scientists representing different disciplines.

I hope that these remarks are useful to you and to your colleagues.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN BACHALL,
National Medal of Science, 1998.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1389), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we have a number of other items to be taken up.

**MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—H.R. 2873**

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2873, which was just received from the House, is at the desk, and I now ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2873) to extend and amend the program entitled Promoting Safe and Stable Families under title IV-B, subpart 2 of the Social Security Act, and to provide new authority to support programs for mentoring children of incarcerated parents; to amend the Foster Care Independent Living Program under title IV-E of that Act to provide for educational and training vouchers for youths aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request on behalf of my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will remain at the desk.

HEATHER FRENCH HENRY HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 191, S. 739.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 739) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; definition.
- Sec. 3. National goal to end homelessness among veterans.
- Sec. 4. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.
- Sec. 5. Meetings of Interagency Council on the Homeless.
- Sec. 6. Evaluation of programs and activities regarding homeless veterans.
- Sec. 7. Per diem payments for furnishing services to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 8. Dental care for homeless veterans.
- Sec. 9. Programmatic expansions.
- Sec. 10. Various authorities.
- Sec. 11. Life safety code for grant and per diem providers.
- Sec. 12. Assistance for grant applications.
- Sec. 13. Extension of homeless veterans reintegration program.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; DEFINITION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On the field of battle, the members of the Armed Forces who defend the Nation are honor-bound to leave no one behind and, likewise, the Nation is honor-bound to leave no veteran behind.

(2) The Department of Veterans Affairs report known as the Community Homeless Assessment, Local Education, and Networking Groups for Veterans (CHALENG) assessment, issued in May 2000, reports that during 1999 there were an estimated 344,983 homeless veterans, an increase of 34 percent above the 1998 estimate of 256,872 homeless veterans.

(3) The 1996 National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients found that, although veterans constitute only 13 percent of the adult population, veterans comprise 23 percent of homeless clients.

(4) Homelessness among veterans is persistent despite unprecedented economic growth and job creation and general prosperity.

(5) While there are many effective programs that assist homeless veterans to again become productive and self-sufficient members of society, current resources provided to such programs and other activities that assist homeless veterans are inadequate to provide all needed essential services, assistance, and support to homeless veterans.

(6) The CHALENG assessment referred to in paragraph (2) reports—

(A) that Department of Veterans Affairs and community providers were responsible for establishing almost 500 beds for homeless veterans during 2000, including emergency, transitional, and permanent beds; and

(B) that there is a need for about 45,724 additional beds to meet current needs of homeless veterans.

(7) Nearly four decades ago, the Nation established a goal of sending a man to the moon and returning him safely to earth within a decade and accomplished that goal, and the Nation can do no less to end homelessness among the Nation's veterans.

(b) **HOMELESS VETERAN DEFINED.**—In this Act, the term "homeless veteran" means a veteran who is homeless (as that term is defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a)).

SEC. 3. NATIONAL GOAL TO END HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS.

(a) **NATIONAL GOAL.**—Congress hereby declares it to be a national goal to end homelessness among veterans within a decade.

(b) **COOPERATIVE EFFORTS ENCOURAGED.**—Congress hereby encourages all departments and agencies of Federal, State, and local governments, quasi-governmental organizations, private and public sector entities, including community-based organizations, and individuals to work cooperatively to end homelessness among veterans within a decade.

SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans"

"(a)(1) There is established in the Department the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "Committee").

"(2) The Committee shall consist of not more than 15 members appointed by the Secretary from among the following:

- "(A) Veterans service organizations.
- "(B) Advocates of homeless veterans and other homeless individuals.
- "(C) Community-based providers of services to homeless individuals.
- "(D) Previously homeless veterans.
- "(E) State veterans affairs officials.
- "(F) Experts in the treatment of individuals with mental illness.
- "(G) Experts in the treatment of substance use disorders.
- "(H) Experts in the development of permanent housing alternatives for lower income populations.
- "(I) Experts in vocational rehabilitation.
- "(J) Such other organizations or groups as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(3) The Committee shall include, as ex officio members—

- "(A) the Secretary of Labor (or a representative of the Secretary selected after consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training);
- "(B) the Secretary of Defense (or a representative of the Secretary);
- "(C) the Secretary of Health and Human Services (or a representative of the Secretary); and
- "(D) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (or a representative of the Secretary).

"(4) The Secretary shall determine the terms of service and pay and allowances of the members of the Committee, except that a term of service may not exceed three years. The Secretary may reappoint any member for additional terms of service.

"(b)(1) The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, consult with and seek the advice of the Committee with respect to the provision by the

Department of benefits and services to homeless veterans.

"(2)(A) In providing advice to the Secretary under this subsection, the Committee shall—

"(i) assemble and review information relating to the needs of homeless veterans;

"(ii) provide an on-going assessment of the effectiveness of the policies, organizational structures, and services of the Department in assisting homeless veterans; and

"(iii) provide on-going advice on the most appropriate means of providing assistance to homeless veterans.

"(3) The Committee shall—

"(A) review the continuum of services provided by the Department, whether directly or by contract, in order to define cross-cutting issues and to improve coordination of all services in the Department that address the special needs of homeless veterans;

"(B) identify (through annual assessments under section 1774 of this title and other available resources) gaps in programs of the Department in serving homeless veterans, including identification of geographic areas with unmet needs, and provide recommendations to address those gaps;

"(C) identify gaps in existing information systems on homeless veterans, both within and outside the Department, and provide recommendations about redressing problems in data collection;

"(D) identify barriers under existing laws and policies to effective coordination by the Department with other Federal agencies and with State and local agencies addressing homeless populations;

"(E) identify opportunities for enhanced liaison by the Department with nongovernmental organizations and individual groups addressing homeless populations;

"(F) with appropriate officials of the Department designated by the Secretary, participate with the Interagency Council on the Homeless under title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq.);

"(G) recommend appropriate funding levels for specialized programs for homeless veterans provided or funded by the Department;

"(H) recommend appropriate placement options for veterans who, because of advanced age, frailty, or severe mental illness, may not be appropriate candidates for vocational rehabilitation or independent living; and

"(I) perform such other functions as the Secretary may direct.

"(c)(1) Not later than March 31 of each year, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the programs and activities of the Department that relate to homeless veterans during the preceding year. Each such report shall include—

"(A) an assessment of the needs of homeless veterans;

"(B) a review of the programs and activities of the Department designed to meet such needs, including the evaluation of outreach activities required under paragraph (2);

"(C) a review of the activities of the Committee; and

"(D) such recommendations (including recommendations for administrative and legislative action) as the Committee considers appropriate.

"(2)(A) The Committee shall include in each report under paragraph (1) an evaluation of the outreach activities of the Department with respect to homeless veterans, including outreach regarding clinical issues and outreach regarding other benefits.

"(B) The Committee shall conduct each evaluation under this paragraph in consultation with the Under Secretary for Benefits, the Under Secretary for Health, the Readjustment Counseling Service, the Director of Homeless Veterans Programs, and the Mental Health Strategic Health Care Group.

"(C) In including an evaluation under this paragraph in a report under paragraph (1), the