

balancing of these competing concerns is critical, and one that the Congress, and particularly the Judiciary Committee, must take an active role.

I think that there is no question that making sure the privacy policies and practices of the Federal Government is important. In addition, we should make sure that the privacy laws governing the Federal Government's use of personally identifiable information work effectively. This is an important issue that we can both work together to make happen, and if I remember correctly, it is one that Attorney General Ashcroft has similar concerns about.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now be in a period of morning business with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE VISIT OF SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM DAE JUNG

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to share with my colleagues a letter that Representatives GEPHARDT, LANTOS, SKELTON, Senators BIDEN and LEVIN, and I recently sent to President Bush. The letter outlines our support for efforts to work with our South Korean friends to address the threats to our security emanating from North Korea.

Like President Bush, we harbor no illusions about the challenges posed by the North Korean government. To say North Korea's actions the past several decades have greatly troubled the United States and the world is an understatement. However, we also recognize that we cannot simply ignore the challenges the current regime poses for the international community; the stakes, which include the proliferation of missile technology, are simply too high.

Last week Secretary Powell publicly recognized that the Clinton Administration made progress in addressing the threats posed by North Korea. We agree with that assessment. We believe the record shows that the Clinton Administration fell just short of reaching a comprehensive agreement with the North Koreans that would have dramatically reduced tensions between the two Koreas and between North Korea and the rest of the world.

Given the urgency of these threats and the fact that a breakthrough appeared imminent just months ago, it is in the U.S. national interest to pursue additional discussions with the North Koreans. Only by allowing our negotiators to sit down with their North Korean counterparts will we be able to determine whether that recent progress contains the seeds of a com-

prehensive and verifiable agreement with North Korea.

Let us be clear. The burden here is on the North Koreans to prove that they will join the international community. We may find that a deal is not possible. But to walk away from that effort now, without knowing whether a deal is possible, is to pass up an opportunity to address a principal threat to the United States and to our friends in the region, South Korea chief among them.

We urge the President to work with President Kim and our South Korean friends—with our strong support—to test North Korea's commitment to peace through a comprehensive and verifiable agreement on its nuclear and missile activity. The stakes are too high and the issues too urgent to do otherwise.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated March 6, 2001.

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 6, 2001.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing in regard to your upcoming meeting with Republic of Korea President Kim Dae Jung. Korea is a steadfast ally in a strategic part of the world, and we are pleased you will meet with President Kim early in your administration.

We understand that President Kim's efforts toward rapprochement with North Korea will be a subject of your meeting. In the context of those efforts, late last year North Korea suggested it may be ready to permanently address U.S. and allied concerns regarding its nuclear and missile capability—a major destabilizing force in East Asia and a principal threat to the security of the U.S. and its allies in the region.

Your meeting with President Kim offers an opportunity to stand with our South Korean friends to test whether North Korea is indeed committed to peace. Given North Korea's often far-reaching demands and record of disregarding international norms, we are under no illusions about the difficulty of getting comprehensive and verifiable agreements with North Korea that address our concerns about its current and future nuclear and ballistic missile activities. We believe, however, the stakes are high and the issues involved demand urgent attention, and it is evident to us that the continued engagement of the U.S. Government on this matter could serve to reduce a serious potential threat to our national security.

We therefore hope you thoroughly explore the possibility of reaching agreements that are in our national interest, and ask that you clearly demonstrate to President Kim our government's ongoing commitment to working constructively with the Republic of Korea to confront this major strategic challenge.

Should you choose this path to work with the Republic of Korea to address these critical concerns, we stand ready to support you.

Sincerely,

SEN. TOM DASCHLE,
Senate Democratic
Leader.

REP. RICHARD GEPHARDT,
House Democratic
Leader.

SEN. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
Ranking Member Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

REP. TOM LANTOS,
Ranking Member House International Relations Committee.

SEN. CARL LEVIN,
Ranking Member Senate Armed Services Committee.

REP. IKE SKELTON,
Ranking Member House Armed Services Committee.

SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF INDIAN EARTHQUAKE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the Indian people for the recent loss of life and property due to the recent earthquake in their country. On January 26, the people of Gujarat in western India were hit with an earthquake the size and devastation of that which hit San Francisco in 1906. The earthquake in Gujarat killed more than 30,000, injured more than 100,000, and displaced more than a half million men, women, and children. My thoughts and prayers, and those of many Americans, are with them at this difficult time.

The people of India have been valuable friends to America, and a number of Indians call this country their home. Unfortunately, tragic events like these show how quickly loved ones and friends can be taken from us. However, it is also through despair and tears that people often find humanity and caring.

The damage to the region is expected to exceed \$5.5 billion. In the face of such a catastrophe, it is imperative that the global community actively respond. I am heartened to see the outpouring of assistance that nations around the globe, and countless non-governmental organizations, have offered to India. Our own government will continue to offer our support to the victims of this earthquake, and I encourage President Bush to offer any needed additional assistance as they begin the process of rebuilding shattered homes and lives.

THE DEPARTURE OF A DEAR FRIEND, KRISTINE "IVO" IVERSON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, one of my very dear staffers is about to leave the Senate, a wonderful woman who has given a great deal of her time and love—indeed, a great deal of her life—to me, my office, the citizens of Utah, the county, and indeed, to this grand and honored institution, the Senate of the United States.

It is almost impossible for me to believe, but, after nearly a quarter of a

century, Kristine Iverson's last working day in my office has now come upon us.

I can still remember that day in 1976, when a young Illinois native—just two years out of DePauw University—when that young lady came to my office, résumé in hand, seeking a position as a legislative correspondent. Kris got that job, and it was one of the best moves I made.

Kris joined my staff in 1977 as a legislative correspondent. But her intelligence, dedication, warm heart and incredible ability to grasp all the intricacies of the legislative process quickly propelled her to a series of top positions in my office and on the Labor Committee.

And for the past 24 years, day in and day out, we have always been able to count on Kris Iverson. Night after night, year after year, she was the first one in and the last one to leave.

In short, we have grown gray together.

Over the years, Kris has worn many hats: Legislative Assistant, Labor Committee Policy Director, Labor Committee Minority Staff Director, and now Legislative Director.

In every position she served admirably and won the utmost respect from her colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Most recently, Kris has served without peer in one of the most difficult and challenging positions in the office of any Senator—legislative director. In that position, she has served with an unmatched commitment to the Senate and indeed the very Congress of the United States.

We all know how important it is to have a Legislative Director who we can trust to take our legislative priorities and help us direct them through the Byzantine maze of the legislative process.

Kris has been responsible for shepherding every piece of legislation that I sponsored. Beyond that, she was also responsible for helping to direct the legislative activities of both my personal staff and the Judiciary Committee staff.

Not only has Kris—or “Ivo” as we endearingly refer to her—earned my undying respect and admiration, but she is also highly admired by many in this body for her honesty, her work-ethic and her analytical skills.

When I think of many of the great laws in this nation the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, the Women in Science Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Job Training Partnership Act or JTPA, the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP all of these great laws reflect Kris Iverson's substantial mark.

Kris was there—in fact, Ivo was the lead staffer—on my first law, the National Ski Patrol Federal Charter, signed by Carter in 1980.

We often joke that she has files older than many of our staffers, and I'm sorry to say, it's true!

Unfortunately for us, her reputation has carried all the way to the White House where President George W. Bush has announced his intent to nominate her to one of the highest positions in the Department of Labor.

If all goes as planned—and I know it will—very shortly Kris will become the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Her only obstacle is confirmation by this august body . . . and I am counting on my colleagues to give her their support. Unanimous support!

I know that in that very important office, she will serve Secretary Chao with the same dedication and spirit. Clearly, being appointed by the President of our great nation to such a position is a tremendous honor and a tribute to her.

A great writer once said:

Give us an individual of integrity, on whom we know we can thoroughly depend; who will stand firm when others fail; the friend, faithful and true; the advisor, honest and fearless; the adversary, just and chivalrous: such an one is the fragment of the Rock of Ages.—J.P. Stanley

Ivo has been such a faithful and true “rock” of our office. I cannot put into words how much she will be missed, not only by my staff but also by the Senate as a whole.

And of course, she will be greatly missed by me.

I have considered her my right-hand counselor and advisor. I have relied on her on a daily, if not hourly basis.

We have come to count on Kris to do it all. From proper placement of commas . . . to strategy on the most important legislative initiatives . . . Kris does it, and does it well.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of people throughout Washington and the nation were mentored by Kris Iverson, and under her gentle tutelage have gone on to lead successful careers.

When the times were hard or the seas were rough, Kris was there with a steady and unbending hand to guide us on the proper course. She was our captain, our Mother Superior, our eye in the storm, our calm center in a sea of chaos.

I must say that I am very saddened by her departure. But I am very, very happy and proud of her accomplishments and most importantly, of this tremendous appointment to a place where I know that she will continue to honor and serve her country with dignity and respect.

So, I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing Kris well, in expressing our love and gratitude for her service to us.

There is no doubt in our minds that she will move on to even greater heights as she continues to serve our government and our President.

Mr. President, I have had a lot of people serve with me throughout the years, a lot of really good people I love, adore, appreciate, and honor. I have had no one serve with me who did a better job or gave more to this institu-

tion and to our country than Kris Iverson. I felt very much like I had to make this statement at this time before Kris leaves. She is sitting right beside me, and I am very, very proud of her.

I yield to my friend from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I was happy to yield to my colleague for the purpose of making this statement, although I had no idea what the subject matter was going to be. I feel fortunate to have been on the floor when I discovered it was going to be about Kris Iverson, with whom I have worked now for some 15 or 16 years, going back to the mid-1980s when Senator HATCH and I authored the child care development block grant.

Kris Iverson did the initial work for Senator HATCH on that legislation, working with a fellow from my office who has been at the Department of Health and Human Services over the last number of years. I thank Kris.

Coming from the other side of the aisle here, I didn't have the privilege of working with her every day, but on the days that I did, I came to know her as a highly competent, serious individual of deep convictions, who understands issues very, very well, appreciates the role of government, and that bright and talented people can make a contribution.

We are going to miss you, I say to Kris Iverson, here in the Senate, although we are not going to lose you entirely from public service. So on behalf of those of us on this side of the aisle—we don't want to ruin your reputation in Republican circles—but we thank you as well for a job very well done on behalf of all Americans. We are lucky to have had you serve the Senate and certainly the interests of the American people.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for his kind remarks because he knows how hard we worked together on the child care development block grant, and a whole raft of other issues. Kris has done such a great job, and I am honored to have her sit beside me for the last time in the Senate. We are very proud of her.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JIM O'ROURKE

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Connecticut State Representative Jim O'Rourke on being named the Irishman of the Year by the Portland-Middletown Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish-American organization with a tradition of service to the community.

Jim O'Rourke, born in Boston, MA, has served the people of Connecticut for most of his adult life. He is a graduate of Manchester High School and earned a Bachelors Degree in Political Science at the University of Connecticut. While at the University of