

that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

REMOVAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I rise to express my dismay at the Economic and Social Council's vote yesterday removing the United States from membership on the United Nations Human Rights Commission for the first time since its inception in 1946.

The United States was a founding member of this distinguished body and has been an active member since its establishment. Under the chairmanship of Eleanor Roosevelt, the U.S. was instrumental in helping to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the very first work of the Commission and one that deeply reflects longstanding and treasured American values. For over 50 years, the United States has worked within the Commission to codify fundamental human rights and practices. Through the Commission we have also fought for vigorous investigations of grave breaches of human rights wherever they occurred and have raised our voice in defense of freedom on behalf of those whose own voices were silenced.

The Commission's membership has grown along with the membership in the United Nations as newly independent nations have joined the world bodies. However, the inclusion of countries with extremely poor human rights records, such as Sudan and Cuba, on the Commission is troubling. And it means that we will have to work even harder to promote universal standards so that one day all people can enjoy the freedom, liberty and equality we too often take for granted here at home.

We may never know why so many countries voted against us in the secret balloting. I am afraid, however, that it may reflect widespread dissatisfaction with what is perceived to be a go-it-alone attitude in foreign affairs by the new administration. Our friends and allies have reacted negatively to a number of President Bush's pronouncements and policies, including rejection of the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty, his opposition to the International Criminal Court, and his willingness to abandon the ABM Treaty before we have a workable missile defense plan in place. This vote clearly demonstrates that there can be unanticipated and damaging consequences to our actions on the world stage. The U.S. cannot take our friends for granted and must remain vigilant against the anti-U.S. efforts of our enemies.

The United States now becomes an observer on the U.N. Human Rights Commission but we can, indeed we must, remain actively engaged in defending human rights throughout the world. We have lost our vote but not our voice. The Commission will be

weaker without our membership and our leadership. But the real losers in yesterday's election were the oppressed, people in many parts of the world who desperately need the support of the United States and the United Nations to stop abuses of their basic rights and to bring the light of freedom into their lives.

I am terribly disappointed by the vote against U.S. membership on the Commission. However, we must not allow this vote to deter our efforts to promote and defend human rights around the world. Our commitment and leadership in advancing freedom, equality and justice for all people derives from the principles on which our Nation was founded and which continue to guide us today.

THE DISASTER TAX EXEMPT ACT

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, as those of us from our Nation's southern and eastern coastal areas know, living in the sunshine of summer can be a double-edged sword. As Floridians enjoy the best weather Mother Nature has to offer, we must not neglect preparations for the start of hurricane season on June 1, 2001. I am pleased to join my colleague from Florida, Senator NELSON, and my colleagues from Texas in introducing legislation that will help protect Florida from economic devastation as sunny days and warm water are accompanied by the potential for catastrophic disaster.

Our legislation amends section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code to grant tax-exempt status to State chartered, not-for-profit insurers serving markets in which commercial insurance is not available. In Florida, this legislation will assist the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association, FWUA, and the Florida Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association, JUA.

The Florida Windstorm Association was created in 1970. Twenty-two years later, in 1992, the legislature authorized the Joint Underwriting Association. These organizations operate as residual market mechanisms. They provide residential property and casualty insurance coverage for those residents who need, but are unable to procure, insurance through the voluntary market.

The JUA was created in direct response to \$16 billion in covered losses during Hurricane Andrew. The destructive force of Andrew rendered a number of property insurance companies insolvent. Other firms reacted to the catastrophe by withdrawing from the Florida market.

During those fortunate years when Florida is not hit by major hurricanes or other natural disasters, the FWUA and JUA take in more premiums than are paid out in claims and expenses. Florida law prevents those funds from being distributed so that needed reserves will accumulate in preparation for disasters we know will come in the future.

Unfortunately, the Internal Revenue Code penalizes Florida for this responsible, forward thinking practice. It requires that 35 percent of those funds be sent to Washington, as Federal income taxes rather than be used to accumulate reserves. Designating State chartered, non-profit insurers as tax-exempt entities will help Florida amass the necessary reserves to pay claims brought on by a catastrophe.

State law also authorizes the FWUA and the JUA to assess property insurance policyholders for losses generated by natural disasters. Tax exemption will reduce the frequency and severity of assessments levied against individual policyholders, because higher reserves will be available to cover losses.

Mr. President, though nearly a decade has passed, Hurricane Andrew is still a nightmarish memory for Floridians. The National Weather Service expects this hurricane season to be another active storm season. It is imperative that the Federal Government avoids the comfortable habit of ignoring lessons presented by Andrew and other recent catastrophes.

Similar legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives and enjoys bipartisan support from Florida's congressional delegation.

Our legislation is extremely important to homeowners and businesses throughout Florida, all of whom are subject to assessment if reserves are not sufficient to pay claims in the event of a catastrophe. Florida remains sensitive to the perils of nature. Enactment of this legislation will permit our State to prepare for the next Hurricane Andrew while alleviating some of the economic hardship exacted on Florida property owners.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VERMONT GRANITE MUSEUM

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week I had the pleasure of attending the raising of the old Jones Brothers granite shed in Barre, Vermont. This historic wooden building built in 1895 will be raised four feet off the ground for several months while a new foundation is poured and the building is secured. Once one of the largest granite manufacturing plants in the world, this building will soon be home to the Vermont Granite Museum, a tribute to one of Vermont's oldest and proudest industries. As the grandson of a stonecutter I cannot think of a better way to honor this heritage than a world class museum and learning center in the heart of Vermont. I would like to share with my colleagues the comments of my fellow Vermonters, Edwin Granai and Marsha Davis, who spoke eloquently of this building, its history and what the museum will mean to our state.

I ask consent that the statements of Edwin Granai and Marcia Davis be printed in the RECORD.

The statements follow:

REMARKS OF EDWIN GRANAI

"In Italia," my grandmother used to say, "Una volta un portiere sempre un portiere (Once a porter always a porter)." At the beginning of the last century in Italy those born into poverty lived a life of poverty. The rigid class structure of the monarchy would prevail in Italy for another half century. My grandparents did not have a half century to wait, so they came America, the "Promised Land." My grandfather emigrated from the quarries of Carrara, Italy, to the quarries of Barre, Vermont to find work and above all opportunity.

The Promised Land did not materialize for him. His earnings never rose above subsistence level and he lost his health at mid-life. He died in his forties with empty pockets and dust-filled lungs. My father, after completing the fourth grade at Brook Street School, went to work at the age of ten years in 1907 in this very building to help support his family. In time America did become the Promised Land for my father and for his children, of which I am one. But my grandfather died as he came, poor.

Other immigrants made it in the first generation. Last Fall I stayed an extra day in Washington to visit the recently completed National Cathedral. It is one of the world's great churches. Roger Marigi was the Master Carver for a quarter century during the completion years. His grandfather came to Barre at the same time mine did. Marigi says: "My grandfather came to America from Italy in 1890 . . . He went to Barre, Vermont, because all the Italian stone carvers were up there. That's where you got your job . . . You went up to Barre because that's where the work was. Granite. You stayed there and learned . . ."

The work was here because we have Barre Gray, the durable and aesthetically pleasing stone that adorns memorials, buildings, and plazas throughout the world. And we had the skilled quarriers, artisans and sculptors to extract and shape that stone. They came from Italy, Scotland, Sweden, England, Spain, France, Canada, and around the world to Barre.

The work is still here for the same reasons. We have a 4500-year supply of Barre Gray. And we still have the finest quarriers, manufacturers, artisans and sculptors shaping that stone. Sculptors from all over America and around the world come to Barre today to learn from and work with Barre stone artisans.

These assets—the stone and skilled workers—are like the foundation we dedicate today. This foundation is the starting point for the restoration of this historic building. Our granite and our skilled workers are both out heritage and the starting point for the renewal of Barre's granite industry.

At the beginning of this new century we live in a very different world from that of our fathers. The citizens of Barre City and Barre Town recognized this when they gathered in 1994 to brainstorm their vision for the future. They saw the challenge of the global marketplace. They recognized that in today's world economy our granite industry is in fierce competition with lesser quality stone and inferior artistry. In the vision of the Vermont Granite Museum they recognized the value of combining and displaying the wisdom of the past with a modern learning environment that will create a dynamic marketing force for the industry. The educational programs of the museum will invigorate the worldwide learning connection. The tourist benefit, 90,000 people per year, will infuse six million dollars annually into the central Vermont economy. More importantly together they will create a new level

of awareness for the beauty, function and utility of Barre Gray in all its uses, and a new level of appreciation for stone finishing and carving as both art and vocation.

This is an ambitious project and it is happening thanks in large part to everyone here assembled. I grew up in Barre and maintain strong family and community ties. I have never seen such a strong focus and wide spread support for a community project. The scale requires it.

I had never been in this building until I toured it with Marcia a year and a half ago. I came to see what we were starting with and to imagine what it could become. I was not prepared for what happened to me within minutes of my entry. Suddenly and unexpectedly I was keenly aware of the ghost of my deceased father working here as a child and young man. His presence was so real it penetrated my heart and threatened my composure. It took my breath away. And, when I got my breath, I then thought of my grandfather and said a silent prayer of thanks to Coriolano for his courage to leave his homeland to come to America.

I will never forget that moment. It profoundly deepened my connection to my heritage here in Barre, to my father and grandfather through the work that they did and the sacrifices they made. It connected me in a new way to their courage and spirit, and in so doing strengthened my determination to put my shoulder to this project. The pay-off of this project began for me on that day when the rehabilitation of this building had barely begun. I can only imagine the impact of the finished museum. If I seem enthused about this project it is because I am. And my enthusiasm increases each step of the way.

As we dedicate this foundation of what is to be a world class museum and learning center we are half way to our twelve million-dollar goal. That is remarkable. But just as remarkable is the energy that has emerged around this project. It is the kind of energy that will create a new prosperity for this community and region. The glass is half full—enough to toast the courage and fortitude of our ancestors and to say with certainty to our heirs that the future of Barre is as solid as the rock—Barre Gray—upon which it is build.

REMARKS OF MARCIA A. DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VERMONT GRANITE MUSEUM OF BARRE

Welcome.

We are here today to celebrate Vermont's granite industry: its past, present and future.

The Jones Brothers granite shed represents the industry's distinguished past. Built in 1895, with Douglas Fir timbers, brought by rail from the Pacific Northwest, this building was one of the first straight shed designs to be constructed in Barre to house water powered overhead cranes.

Who were the Jones Brothers?

The Jones Brothers were sons of Hugh Jones, whom at age 2 immigrated to America with his parents from Wales, and settled in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. When the Civil War broke out, Hugh Jones enlisted and became the first Union soldier to be killed at the Battle of Fort Stedman, Virginia, in 1865, leaving behind a widow and six children all under the age of 13.

Fifteen years later, the two older Jones Brothers, Marshall, and Seward, "imbued with faith in an industry, in themselves, in their friends, and in a nation", opened their own wholesale monumental business in 1882 in Boston, Massachusetts. Marshall was 29 years old. Seward was four years younger.

Their monument dealership dealt in light pink and gray granite from Scotland, darker

granites from Sweden, Norway, and Finland, and native granite from Quincy, Massachusetts.

Later on two younger brothers, Dayton and Hugh Jones, joined the company, and they opened an office in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1884.

While searching for granites in New England, the Jones Brothers were introduced to Barre Gray granite. They described it as having a "color and texture far surpassing the gray Scotch in beauty and quality".

In 1886, they decided to expand again, purchasing a dark gray granite quarry on Millstone Hill, Barre, and leased a granite manufacturing shed from Mackie & Simpson, on 46 Granite Street, the very same site of the Socialist Block, now known as the Old Labor Hall.

The Jones Brothers Company also owned and operated the Wells Lamson Quarry in Barre Town.

The Jones Brothers Company was the first granite enterprise to advertise finished granite monuments nationally in 1927.

The Jones Brothers Company employed as many as 500 people on this very site.

The Jones Brothers Company was referred to as the largest and oldest granite manufacturing plant in the world. The business closed in 1975.

The company's trademark, registered in 1926, portrays an angel with arms and wings outstretched above a rectangular memorial which says "Guardian Memorials of Everlasting Beauty. To mark the place with beauty forever."

And they did.

Thousands of monuments, family mausoleums, memorials, and buildings were designed, commissioned and produced on this very site for eighty years.

Some of the more notable structures located throughout the country are:

The Green Beret Memorial, dedicated by John Wayne, in Fort Bragg, No. Carolina
The Beacon Monument for the Massachusetts State House, in Boston, Massachusetts

Sixteen Massive Pillars in the nave of St. John the Divine Cathedral, in New York City (Eight of which were six feet in diameter, 38 feet high, weighing 100 tons each, and took a year to produce, transport and set them prior to construction of the cathedral itself.)

The Brigham Young Memorial in Salt Lake City, Utah

The Shevchenko Memorial in Washington, DC

The Coal Miners Memorial in West Virginia
The U.S. President William Henry Harrison Memorial

And mausoleums for the Woolrich, Firestone, Heinz, Hood, Hershey, Ringling and Webb families.

With technological advances in power, transportation, and machinery came the "boom years" of the granite industry. Between 1880 and 1900, in Barre alone, the population grew from 2060 to 11,754. Montpelier, Northfield, Woodbury, Hardwick, Bethel and South Ryegate were full of granite sheds and quarries.

Waves of immigrants came from Scotland, Italy, England, Ireland, France, Spain, Canada, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark to work in Vermont's stone industry. They came through Ellis Island, Boston and other ports of entry, many of them having to leave their families behind, yet full of hope for a better life in America.

These men cut, hauled, shaped, lettered and carved stone with a passion for their families, and for Vermont, ultimately becoming Americans.

Even under extremely difficult working conditions, these men and this industry not

only survived, but flourished, transforming this country's landscape as we know it today.

Today, granite countertops are to be expected in luxury homes and offices. NASA's subcontractors use granite precision surface plates to check for flaws or aberrations in the shuttle's engine parts, as do numerous other manufacturers for products that require the most stable and accurate conditions are required for manufacturing.

No one can predict the future, however, we do know the granite industry is up for whatever challenges may come its way, and that will become a new exhibit.●

CELEBRATING THE SCHIFFER CANCER CENTER OF WHEELING HOSPITAL

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the recent accomplishment of one of West Virginia's finest health care facilities, the Schiffer Cancer Center at Wheeling Hospital. Wheeling Hospital just became one of only two community hospitals in the country and the ninth facility in the world to become a part of the Partnership in Science with the Division of Clinical Sciences of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD. This is an incredible and important accomplishment for this facility and the citizens of West Virginia.

Wheeling Hospital, which is located in Wheeling, WV, is an acute care community hospital, which just celebrated its 150th anniversary last year. Located right in the heart of the northern panhandle in Ohio County, the hospital serves Ohio County, parts of Brook and Marshall Counties, and eastern Ohio State residents bordering the Ohio River in addition to residents of southwestern Pennsylvania and across the State of West Virginia.

I had the pleasure of visiting Wheeling Hospital in 1993 for the dedication of their Howard Long Wellness Center. The facility employs approximately 2,000 people and maintains five centers of excellence including: cancer; cardiac, including open heart surgery; women's health; trauma; and the Howard Long Wellness Center, which is 55,000 sq. feet. The recent partnership between Wheeling Hospital and the National Center Institute is one of the greatest achievements in cancer care that has happened in the Ohio Valley. With this partnership, qualified cancer patients in the area will be able to participate in a select number of new cancer research protocols without leaving home. They will also be empowered to consult with and obtain second, third, even fourth opinions about their condition and treatment. Additionally, the partnership increases education opportunities for physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals in the area. Residents of West Virginia, east-

ern Ohio, and southwestern Pennsylvania will all benefit from this partnership.

I am so thankful to Wheeling Hospital, its CEO, Don Hofreuter, its doctors and nurses, and all of its employees for all of the amazing work that they continue to do to serve their community. The people of Ohio County, West Virginia, and the surrounding area are indeed fortunate to have you as part of our community. Congratulations on your 150th anniversary. ●

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. KYL):

S. 834. A bill to provide duty-free treatment for certain steam or other vapor generating boilers used in nuclear facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 835. A bill to establish the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 115

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 115, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the percentage depletion allowance for certain hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to reinstate a final rule promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 661

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 661, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent motor fuel exercise taxes on railroads and inland waterway transportation which remain in the general fund of the Treasury.

S. 778

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from California, (Mrs. BOXER), the

Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 778, a bill to expand the class of beneficiaries who may apply for adjustment of status under section 245(i) of the immigration and Nationality Act by extending the deadline for classification petition and labor certification filings.

S. 830

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 830, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. CON. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 17, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there should continue to be parity between the adjustments in the compensation of members of the uniformed services and the adjustments in the compensation of civilian employees of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. KYL)

S. 834. A bill to provide duty-free treatment for certain steam or other vapor generating boiler used in nuclear facilities; to the Committee on Finance

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

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

S. 834

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Generator Tariff Elimination Act".

SEC. 2. DUTY-FREE TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN BOILERS USED IN NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 84 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by striking subheading 8402.11.00 and inserting the following new subheadings, with the article description for subheading 8402.11 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 8402.12.00:

8402.11	Watertube boilers with a steam production exceeding 45 t per hour	Free		
8402.11.10	For use in nuclear reactors	5.2%	Free (A, CA, E, IL, J, MX)	45%
8402.11.20	Other			45%