

United States and the People's Republic of China". The legislation which created the Commission charges it to submit an annual report to the Congress with recommendations for action, if any.

The bi-partisan Commission is composed of twelve commissioners, three of whom were appointed by each of the Congressional leaders in both the House and Senate. To prepare itself to issue its first Report the Commission held nine open hearings and took testimony from 115 witnesses on 35 separate panels. It also contracted for new research on China from a variety of sources including extensive translation and analysis of articles on economic, political, and trade issues that are appearing in influential Chinese publications. Members of the Commission also traveled to China, Taiwan, Japan, and the headquarters of the World Trade Organization, WTO, in Geneva. During its deliberations the Commission developed a broad bi-partisan agreement on the issues it was charged by Congress to study, and it adopted its first report by a vote of 11-1.

Among its key findings are that the United States, by acting as China's largest export market and a key investor in the Chinese economy, has been a major contributor to China's rise as an economic power. It further notes that our trade relationship with China is not only our largest trade deficit in absolute terms, but is the most unbalanced trading relationship maintained by the United States.

The Report further notes that while U.S. imports from China constitute over 40 percent of China's exports, U.S. exports to China represent only two percent of our total exports. It finds that the U.S. trade deficit with China is not only in low-skilled labor intensive items, but also in a majority of items found on the Commerce Department's list of advanced technology products. It further finds that there is plausible evidence that our burgeoning trade deficit with China will worsen regardless of China's entry into the WTO.

The Report also discusses the fast increasing trade and investment linkages between China and Taiwan which the Commission notes "could ameliorate tensions between the two", but which are also increasing "U.S. dependence on the items made in China for our computer electronics and other high technology products".

The Report makes a number of recommendations to better the chances for building a better long-term mutually beneficial economic and political relationship with China. Among these are: 1. That we put in place new programs to build a much wider expertise about China both in our society and among policymakers, and 2. that we take new measures to keep our industrial, scientific, and technological base from eroding as a result of our economic relations with a China whose government has adopted policies to expand its own base even at our expense.

I think this first Report of the Commission makes a very valuable contribution to our policy deliberations on China. It will be very helpful to the Congress as we examine how to respond to the challenges to our country posed by China's strengthening economic, military, and political profiles. We can best craft sensible policies if we better understand the perceptions that Chinese leaders have of us and what their long-term goals are. Judging the Commission's Report will help us do both.

I salute Senator BYRD for his wisdom in calling for the creation of the Commission and thank all of its Commissioners for the important contributions that their first Report makes to our knowledge of the U.S.-China economic and political relationship. I commend the Report to my fellow Senators.

CLEARING THE AIR IN THE SMOKIES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is truly the crown jewel of our national park system. With towering mountains, clear streams, and a diversity of wildlife, Tennessee is fortunate to have such a tremendous treasure in our own backyard. During the Senate's July break, I returned to the Smokies, to once again hike Mt. LeConte, this year with my oldest son, Harrison. Our hike up the Alum Cave trail was exhilarating, and we spent the night at LeConte Lodge, watching the sunset, and enjoying the hearty meals and good fellowship of fellow hikers.

My trip to the Smokies this month had another purpose, too. This year, I invited EPA Administrator Christie Whitman to join me in order for her to see first-hand the air quality problem that plagues our beautiful park. Over the coming months, Congress and President Bush's Administration will analyze and pursue policies to improve our nation's air quality. As this process moves forward, I wanted to make sure that the President's top official responsible for protecting our environment heard directly from park officials and saw for herself the unique challenge facing the Smokies.

As the first EPA Administrator to ever visit the park, Administrator Whitman demonstrated her personal commitment to address the pollution problem. We hiked to the park's highest point, Clingman's Dome, where Administrator Whitman looked out on a vista where natural visibility should be about 77 miles, but on the hot July day we visited, was reduced to only 15 miles. Air entering the southern Appalachians is trapped by geography and weather patterns, capturing pollution and harmful emissions in the park, and no where is that point made more clear than at Clingman's Dome.

Any plan to clean up the air in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park must contain two essential elements. First, we must reduce harmful emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen ox-

ides. President Bush has proposed a plan, the Clear Skies Initiative, that contains the most dramatic reductions in these harmful emissions ever proposed by an administration. The plan would reduce power plant emissions by 70 percent by the year 2018. I will continue to closely study the Clear Skies Initiative and its potential impact on our mountains and across our state.

Second, we must reduce emissions in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Our quality of life and future economic development depends on how we pursue these reductions. Tennessee's families, businesses and communities depend on affordable and reliable energy. A thoughtful and responsible approach to address the park's air quality issue requires us to closely examine any proposal and to ensure it is based on sound science. Tennesseans and all Americans deserve no less from their elected officials.

It is also important to remember that air quality is a comprehensive problem that requires a comprehensive response. Roughly, one-half of the problems in the Smokies are caused by power plants, one third by cars and trucks, and the rest from various other sources. As we review solutions, we must address every source of emissions. For example, I want to commend local officials for Pigeon Forge's recent Clean Air Week which promoted reducing emissions through the use of low emissions public transportation. Park officials are looking at alternatives to transportation problems in the park, which will not only clean up the air, but enhance the overall visitor's experience. Continued discussion by all, local, State and federal officials along with concerned citizens, will ensure the most innovative, common-sense solutions and ensure we do what's right for the Smokies.

Tennesseans are blessed with an abundance of natural resources, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is world-renowned. However, we must be mindful that if we are to continue to enjoy the Smokies, all of us have a responsibility to be good stewards of the park. I am committed to fight for what is best for the Smokies, and I am encouraged by Administrator Whitman's recent visit. The Smokies are a unique American experience that must be preserved for generations to come, so that fathers and sons, just like Harrison and I, can know the joys of spending time together on a hike in the woods.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES RELATING TO TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, due to time constraints, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimate was not included in the report to accompany S. 2621, an act to provide a definition of vehicle for purposes of criminal penalties relating to terrorist attacks and other acts of violence against mass transportation systems. The report is

now available and, therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the attached CBO estimate be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 27, 2002.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 2621, an act to provide a definition of vehicle for purposes of criminal penalties relating to terrorist attacks and other acts of violence against mass transportation systems.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON,
(FOR DAN L. CRIPPEN, DIRECTOR.)

Enclosure.

Congressional Budget Office cost estimate—S. 2621—an act to provide a definition of vehicle for purposes of criminal penalties relating to terrorist attacks and other acts of violence against mass transportation systems.

As passed by the Senate on June 25, 2002.

The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-56) established a new federal offense for acts of violence against mass transportation systems. S. 2621 would clarify the definition of the term "vehicle" as used in that act. CBO estimates that implementing S. 2621 would result in no significant costs to the federal government. The legislation could affect direct spending and receipts through greater collections of criminal fines, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. However, CBO estimates that any effects on direct spending or receipts would be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

S. 2621 contains on intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF DR. VAN KIRKE NELSON

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Montanan whose distinguished career has literally changed the course of two generations of families in the Flathead Valley. In the 1950's a college student from Southern California came to Montana to be a camp counselor on Flathead Lake. As many do, he fell in love with the area and pledged to return after completing medical school to begin his practice in Kalispell, MT.

True to his word, Dr. Van Kirke Nelson, his wife Helen and their children Greg, Julie and Kathy packed all their belongings in a beer truck and moved to Kalispell where Kirke became the town's first medical specialist, opening his practice as an OB-GYN in 1962.

Forty years, two children, Nancy and Doug, and ten grandchildren later, my dear friend Kirke Nelson retired from active medical practice on July 1, 2002, leaving behind a legacy that has enriched the very fabric of the community to which he and his family mean so much.

For 40 years, Dr. Van Kirke Nelson delivered the town's babies. Lots of babies. So many, in fact, that it is not unusual for him to look at a list of Flathead High graduates and determine that he has delivered a majority of them.

Think of it this way. At 10 babies a month, 12 months a year, for 41 years, Kirke delivered roughly 4,920 babies in his career. To put that in perspective, those 4,920 new Montanans are a larger group than the entire population of 22 of Montana's 56 counties.

But the quality of Kirke's career cannot be measured in numbers. Every day he changed lives and made the Flathead Valley and Montana a better place to live. Partners, co-workers, patients and their families all know what I mean. There are more stories than one can possibly tell, and you can be assured that although he is retired, there will be many, many more stories yet to come.

Because you see, Kirke Nelson will never retire from making a difference in the world around him. The phone may not ring in the middle of the night anymore, but knowing Kirke as I do, that just means he'll just be better rested for the challenges that lay ahead.

I know no better Montanans than Kirke and Helen Nelson. I wish for them in this retirement an enriched life with each other and their wonderful family. There are not thanks enough for this kind of career that Kirke has shared with us, but that's what makes America so great. Ours is a country where dreams come true. Where promises are our bond. And where ordinary careers become extraordinary because of the people who live them.

Kirke Nelson's career has been truly extraordinary. And on behalf of a grateful community, State and nation, it is my honor to rise today to say thank you.●

IN RECOGNITION OF WESLEY COLLEGE ATHLETICS, COACH RICK MCCALL AND CHRIS NOLL, 2002 NCAA NATIONAL GOLF CHAMPIONS

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Wesley College's Chris Noll, the 2002 NCAA National Golf Champion. His victory demonstrates the success that comes from hard work, perseverance, experience of a remarkable team, a dedicated coach, and the support of an outstanding college.

The championship competition held in Nebraska last month ended a dramatic, record-breaking season for the

Wolverines. After a stellar overall performance throughout the year, the Wolverines were selected by a committee to play in the NCAA Championships. At the championship, they scored their highest finish in both Wesley records and in Pennsylvania Athletic Conference history. The team dominated the Conference and won the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference Tournament.

Throughout the season, Chris Noll set Wesley College records. He finished first in the Glen Health Ship Builders, the Wesley College Invitational, the King's College National Invitational tournaments and the District II Championships. The Dover sophomore was named Pennsylvania Athletic Conference Player of the Week for four consecutive weeks in addition to a Ping All-American. He closed the season as the 2002 NCAA National Golf Champion.

For the past decade Wolverine Coach Rick McCall has worked tirelessly to successfully build and strengthen the men's golf program. McCall was named All-Middle Atlantic Region Coach of the Year this season, as well as the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. In 1989 he won the Delaware State Golf Association Annual Golf Award. Later he was given the Pat Knight Award for his lifetime contribution to junior golf and two Philadelphia P.G.A. Junior Golf Awards. He is dedicated to the game.

The success of Wesley's golf team is indicative of the depth of the community's support, and the caliber of students, faculty, and staff at the College. I commend those associated with Wesley College athletics for their commitment to preparing athletes for success both on and off the court.

Today, I congratulate Coach Rick McCall, Chris Noll and all of the fine athletes on the golf team. Athletics play a vital role in the development and integrity of students. Wesley College athletes prove that the school's emphasis on the "carry-over value of athletics" is warranted. I am proud of their achievements as student-athletes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting treaties and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by