

overproduction that exists in the global market. At the same time, we found another program that was encouraging Bolivian farmers to get into coffee production. In other words, two steps forward, one step back.

What is worse, the administration does not seem to have a comprehensive strategy across agencies to effectively address the international coffee crisis. Nothing to get everyone on the same page and working towards the same goal. Nothing that outlines a plan on how to deal with the crisis.

This is not just my opinion, this is the bipartisan, bicameral view in Congress.

To address these shortcomings, a number of us have come together across party lines and from different sides of the Capitol. We have pushed hard to move forward on this issue.

During the final days of the 107th Congress, I along with Senators SPECTER, DODD, and FEINSTEIN, successfully sponsored S. Res. 368, which called attention to the coffee crisis and urged the administration to formulate a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to address the problem. Although this measure passed the Senate, the administration has been slow to respond, and, as a result, we were forced to include a provision in the Fiscal Year 2004 Foreign Operations bill that requires the Secretary of State to report to Congress on any progress made in formulating this strategy.

To this day, the administration has not come forward with this strategy. While we should take care to make sure this strategy is done right, it has taken the administration too long. This is not a situation that will just go away. We have to act, and that makes coming forward with a strategy all that more important. I urge the administration to finish the job.

Here in the Senate we are doing what we can to respond to the crisis. We were successful in getting the Senate to serve fair trade coffee. And, I am also pleased to report that we helped USAID and Green Mountain Coffee enter into a public-private partnership to implement development projects to address the crisis. These were smaller, but important accomplishments.

Other accomplishments include working with the private sector, and encouraging major companies such as Procter and Gamble and Dunkin' Doughnuts to serve fair trade coffee.

Much of the recent debate on the coffee crisis surrounds U.S. membership in the International Coffee Organization (ICO). As Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I included \$500,000 in the Fiscal Year 2003 Foreign Operations bill for a U.S. contribution to the ICO, if the United States rejoined by June 1, 2003. This move was hailed by a diverse range of groups, including the National Coffee Association, Oxfam International, several Latin American governments, the Specialty Coffee Association of America, and the Colombian Coffee Federation.

Unfortunately, this deadline has come and gone with no decision. How-

ever, it triggered a debate within the administration on the issue of ICO membership. That debate continues to this day.

This is not an indictment on those working on this issue in the administration. To the contrary, those in the State Department, USAID, and other agencies working with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Shaun Donnelly, are talented individuals. They have been responsive to concerns raised by Congress, and I know they are working hard to resolve this issue and find a solution to the coffee crisis.

To ensure that these funds were not lost, the Commerce-State-Justice Subcommittee, under the leadership of Senators GREGG and HOLLINGS, honored my request to include another \$500,000 for a contribution to the ICO in the Fiscal Year 2004 CJS Appropriations bill. I applaud their leadership on this issue. Along with relentless pressure from Representatives CASS BALLENGER and SAM FARR, the help of the Commerce-State-Justice Subcommittee sent a clear signal to the administration: Congress is not going to go away on this issue.

We were recently informed that the State Department supports the U.S. membership in the ICO. This is a positive step, but the administration as a whole has yet to endorse this view.

What is the hold-up? This process has been dragging on for months. It should end, and the U.S. should rejoin the ICO. This is something that U.S. industry, humanitarian NGOs, key friends and allies, and a bipartisan group in Congress supports.

Some may recall the way the ICO used to operate in the past, working as a cartel to stabilize coffee prices. But, nobody is talking about rejoining the ICO to establish a cartel over the coffee market. The ICO is a reformed organization and its chartering agreement has been substantially rewritten, specifically to get the ICO out of the business of price-fixing. The idea of a coffee cartel is an idea on the ash heap of history. I would not support it. I suspect no one in this Chamber would.

I support U.S. membership in the ICO, but recognize that is by no means a silver bullet. Membership alone is not enough to solve the international coffee crisis. Rather, it is one arrow in the quiver, and it can be an effective tool, when used as an integral part of a comprehensive strategy that includes funding for alternative assistance for coffee farmers, working with friends and allies, and the deep involvement of other international organizations such as the World Bank. This is the appropriate role for the ICO.

There are some compelling reasons for rejoining that have been put forward by experts who follow this issue closely. I want to briefly summarize a few of them:

U.S. participation in the ICO would help strengthen the implementation of resolution 407, which establishes quality guidelines on coffee exports. Although not perfect, ICO resolution 407

is a serious, multilateral attempt to help address the international coffee crisis that a number of economists believe could have a meaningful impact. According to some industry leaders, it also enhances competition in the coffee industry.

U.S. participation would help the ICO become more effective in addressing the coffee crisis. Many European nations have said they would be more willing to invest and commit additional resources to resolving this crisis through the ICO, if the U.S. were participating. The European Community (EC) recently called on the U.S. to rejoin. Because the U.S. and EC are not producing nations, this momentum would help the ICO pursue goals to more effectively address development issues associated with the coffee crisis, while helping the ICO continue to move away from discredited policies of the past.

U.S. membership in the ICO would focus more senior level attention, and inter-agency cooperation, on this important foreign policy issue within the administration. This would go a long way in overcoming some of the problems stemming from a lack of coordination between agencies that I mentioned earlier.

The ICO engages in projects to help address the crisis: price risk management for Africa, disease control, and market development projects. Moreover, the ICO is also promoting diversification in cooperation with multilateral agencies such as the FAO, UNCTAD and the World Bank. These strategies could all be enhanced through U.S. membership in the ICO.

ICO membership would send an important signal to the rest of the world that the United States is committed to working collaboratively on every possible solution to this problem. This would be an important diplomatic step on an issue that many of our friends and allies in the developing world care deeply about.

Again, the ICO is not a perfect solution. But, if a \$500,000 contribution can help begin to solve a crisis that is undermining billions of dollars in U.S. foreign assistance, devastating the livelihood of millions of people around the world, and causing severe economic damage to key developing countries, I say its well worth the investment.

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#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

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##### IN RECOGNITION OF SCOTT OBENSHAIN, M.D.

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Scott Obenshain, of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, for his commitment and services to the University and to the people of his State.

In his 32 years at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Dr. Obenshain has provided the leadership for many innovative educational programs that have contributed to the

school's reputation as a national and international leader in the field of medical education. His loyalty to generations of students, combined with his respect for them as adult learners, is truly commendable. In addition, Dr. Obenshain's commitment to education is evidenced in his pioneering work to improve learning by creating a curriculum that is student-centered and problem-based.

The leadership that Dr. Scott Obenshain has demonstrated at the University of New Mexico School of medicine has also had a wide impact on the quality of undergraduate medical education. Students are treated with the highest respect, and Dr. Obenshain has set a tone of excellence in the education of our students. His example has left a lasting impression on innumerable graduates of our medical school. The innovations he began at the University of New Mexico have served as models for other schools both in the United States and around the world, and many institutions have benefited from the leadership that Dr. Scott Obenshain has provided over the years.

Finally, Dr. Obenshain has demonstrated continuing dedication to meeting the needs of poor, rural, and underserved communities in New Mexico, and has steadfastly achieved this by including such populations in the primary care curriculum. For example, he implemented the rural clinical practice component for fourth year medical students in 1974, which became a requirement for all students soon thereafter.

Dr. Scott Obenshain is honored today in the Senate because he has served selflessly and widely, and because he has led with distinction.●

#### OREGON HEALTH CARE HERO

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, in every sense of the word, Dr. Allen Merritt is a true health care hero for the State of Oregon. Dr. Merritt is not only a caring and compassionate pediatrician, but also a tireless and dedicated volunteer. His work to serve the physical and mental health needs of children, as well as his work to help enact important state initiatives on behalf of children, serves as an inspiration to us all.

Dr. Merritt has practiced medicine at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, OR, for the last 7 years. Although Dr. Merritt received his medical degree from the University of Kansas, his entry into the Oregon medical community began at Lewis and Clark University where he received a Certificate in Health Care Administration. Dr. Merritt later received a Masters of Public Administration in Health Care Administration at Portland State University.

In Bend, Dr. Merritt serves multiple organizations dedicated to the well-being of children in Deschutes County and throughout the State. Most notably, Dr. Merritt serves on the Oregon Commission for Children and Families and is a reviewer for the Oregon Board

of Medical Examiners. Besides serving children as a pediatrician and respected state leader, Dr. Merritt has also dedicated his time and effort to numerous community charities including Project Stepping Stones, which promotes infant hearing screenings; The Boys and Girls Club; and, Deschutes County Children's Foundation.

As the 2003 recipient of the Oregon Medical Association's Doctor-Citizen of the Year Award, Dr. Merritt was recognized for his immeasurable contributions to health care in the state of Oregon. For dedicating his life's work to the improvement of health care I would like to again recognize Dr. Allen Merritt as an Oregon Health Care Hero.●

#### TRIBUTE TO STAFF OF THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight a small band of employees in my home State who deserve special recognition for the consistent high quality work they do. I am proud and pleased to honor Michelle Thibodeau, Chief of the Disability Determination Services office in Helena, MT, and her entire staff. Special recognition must also go to Cathy Surdock who works on youth claims and has been singled out for her excellence.

My constituents who face disabilities depend on those at the Disability Determination Services office to evaluate their claims and issue a fair and timely decision. Issuing these decisions quickly is of the utmost importance and makes a real difference to a lot of Montanans. The regional Social Security Administration Commissioner in Denver has recognized Montana's Disability Determination Services office for having the Nation's best processing time for claims. The Helena office averages 68 days processing time as compared to the national average of 110 days. This important honor is for work accomplished during Federal fiscal year 2002. This office won the same award for fiscal year 1999. Additionally, in 2001, they were awarded the Commissioner's Citation for Quality. Michelle's office reviews about 12,000 claims for benefits each year, 2000 of which involve children.

This award recognizes the staff "for exemplary performance in accuracy, timeliness and productivity in providing exceptional service to Montana's citizens with disabilities." Montanans that find themselves physically and mentally challenged are grateful for the heroic steps that Michelle's staff has taken to address their needs in a timely fashion. The professionalism, compassion and technical expertise exhibited by the dedicated staff at the Disability Determination Services office is an example for us all.

In closing, I would like to offer my congratulations to Michelle, Cathy and the entire crew at Disability Deter-

mination Services and also my thanks for the good work you do daily. This is just another example of neighbor helping neighbor in the great State of Montana.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 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

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3. An act to prohibit the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion.

S. 1591. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 48 South Broadway, Nyack, New York, as the "Edward O'Grady, Waverly Brown, Peter Paige Post Office Building".

The enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on today, October 23, 2003, by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1781. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 23, 2003, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1591. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 48 South Broadway, Nyack, New York, as the "Edward O'Grady, Waverly Brown, Peter Paige Post Office Building".

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4882. A communication from the Regulatory Contact, Grain Inspection, Packers,