

comprehend and pierce the enemy's complex, difficult language and their services contributed tremendously to the Allied victory. General MacArthur stated that "Never in military history did any army know so much about the enemy prior to actual engagement." On April 1, 2000, the President of the United States bestowed upon the Nisei MIS the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest honor that can be awarded to any military unit. The major part of the citations reads:

The key contributions made by the members of the Military Intelligence Service in providing valuable intelligence on military targets helped advance the United States and Allied cause during World War II and undoubtedly saved countless lives and hastened the end of the war. The significant achievements accomplished by the faithful and dedicated service of the linguistic-intelligence specialist graduates of the Military Intelligence Service will never be forgotten by our grateful nation. Their unconquerable spirit and gallant deeds under fire in the face of superior odds, and their self-sacrificing devotion to duty are worthy of the highest emulation.

The Nisei served with distinction and honor; not a single case of subversion or disloyalty was ever charged against them. Little is known that nineteen Nisei gave up their lives in the line of duty in the Pacific War. They convincingly proved that Japanese Americans were more than willing and able to fight against an enemy of their own race, and validated the truism "Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart."

MULTIVITAMIN USE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, over the last several years, a significant and growing body of scientific research has emerged detailing the important role micronutrients play in the prevention of many types of chronic disease.

While the science supporting optimal nutrition for disease prevention has grown, the average American's diet has progressively gotten worse. As we have heard so often, a large percentage of Americans do not eat the right mix of foods to meet the Government's RDIs—or recommended daily intakes.

Our top nutrition priority should be getting people to eat a more varied, balanced diet. However, there is a simple and inexpensive way to help Americans get many of the micronutrients they need—encourage the use of a daily multivitamin. Multivitamins—as a complement to a healthy diet—are a simple, safe and cost-effective preventive measure.

Indeed, several recent studies have shown their efficacy. For example, in June 2002, an article published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* recommended that all Americans take a multivitamin daily to help prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer and osteoporosis. A year later, the *Journal of Nutrition* published the results of the Stockholm

Heart Study, which showed that the use of multivitamins may aid in the prevention of heart attacks.

In March, a study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that multivitamin use decreased the risk of infection for people with diabetes. And the science continues to mount demonstrating the potential of daily multivitamin use which can have a whole range of benefits. These include reducing the incidence of neural tube defects by 50 percent or more, decreasing the number of sick days in the elderly due to infectious illnesses by up to 50 percent, delaying or avoiding more than 20 percent of hip fractures caused by osteoporosis, delaying the onset of cataracts and age-related macular degeneration, reducing the incidence of heart disease, stroke and possibly Alzheimer's, and protecting against some types of cancer.

Additionally, I would like to recognize a study that was commissioned by Wyeth Consumer Healthcare and conducted by The Lewin Group. The study examined the potential cost savings—within the Medicare health care model—that could occur if more of our aging population took a daily multivitamin. This study also served as a means for evaluating the impact daily multivitamin use can have on preventive health, particularly in the areas of cardiovascular disease and immune function. The results of the study indicate that increased multivitamin use by adults over 65 could result in an estimated savings to Medicare of more than \$1.6 billion over a 5-year period.

Research shows that a significant number of elderly in our country do not receive proper amounts of essential vitamins, minerals and other nutrients, making them more vulnerable to disease and infection. By adding a multivitamin to their diets, seniors—and all Americans—can help ensure they get the nutrients they need to stay healthy.

While it is always prudent for an individual to take supplements in close consultation with his or her health care advisers, it is obvious from the research that dietary supplements continue to have important health care benefits for consumers and policymakers alike.

I ask unanimous consent that the attached release outlining the Lewin study printed in the *RECORD*.

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

NEW STUDY FINDS INCREASED MULTIVITAMIN USE BY THE ELDERLY COULD SAVE MEDICARE \$1.6 BILLION

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2, 2003.—The results of a new study released today show that the daily use of a multivitamin by older adults could lead to more than \$1.6 billion in Medicare savings over the next five years. The study, funded by Wyeth Consumer Healthcare and conducted by The Lewin Group, was presented at "Multivitamins and Public Health: Exploring the Evidence," a meeting which brought together leading experts from government agencies, top research universities

and health advocacy organizations to examine the current science supporting daily multivitamin use and help chart the course for future research.

The study, the first of its kind, included a systematic literature review of the most rigorous research available and examined the health effects of multivitamin use among adults over 65 years old. The researchers used an analysis of Medicare claims files and widely accepted Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost accounting methods to determine the costs and potential savings, monetizing the potential preventive health benefits of multivitamin supplementation.

"We were able to identify significant cost savings based on improved immune functioning and a reduction in the relative risk of coronary artery disease through providing a daily multivitamin to the 65 and over population," said Allen Dobson, Ph.D., senior vice president and director of Healthcare Finance at The Lewin Group. "In my experience, finding any cost savings for preventive measures is unusual and finding cost savings of this magnitude is very rare."

Over the five-year period from 2004-2008, the study results show potential savings from a reduction in hospitalizations for heart attacks, as well as from a reduction in hospitalizations, Medicare nursing home stays and home healthcare associated with infection.

While the evidence most strongly supports the beneficial effects of multivitamins in improved immune functioning and a reduction in the relative risk of heart disease, researchers also reviewed literature that examined the preventive benefits of multivitamin supplementation as it relates to colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes and osteoporosis. These other conditions were not included in the cost estimation, however, because the research currently available in these areas did not support a direct translation from health effect to reduced health care utilization within a health insurance framework.

These disease states, along with a wide range of additional topics, were among the themes at the Multivitamins and Public Health: Exploring the Evidence meeting yesterday. The invited panel of multidisciplinary thought leaders reviewed the current state of the science and discussed the role multivitamins play in reducing the risk of developing chronic disease, as well as their role in immunity and public health. They came to the following conclusions:

Most Americans do not get optimal amounts of key micronutrients through diet alone, despite the evidence that poor nutritional status increases the risk of birth defects, and infectious and chronic disease;

Daily multivitamins should be recommended to help close this nutritional gap;

Multivitamins are safe, affordable, cost-effective and accessible;

There is promising evidence supporting multivitamin use for the prevention of some chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, making it prudent to recommend that all adults take a daily multivitamin.

"Despite our efforts to maintain a healthy diet, research indicates most of us fall short of getting the vitamins and minerals we need," said David Heber, M.D., Ph.D., director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition and a co-chair of Multivitamins and Public Health. "A daily multivitamin is a simple and cost-effective way to help ensure good health."

"The current research indicates that multivitamins can help protect against the cell damage that makes us vulnerable to the development of many diseases common among older adults," said meeting co-chair Jeffrey Blumberg, Ph.D., a professor in the

Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. "Multivitamins are a safe and effective tool for the promotion of health and prevention of chronic disease."

Multivitamins and Public Health: Exploring the Evidence, a two-day meeting held October 1-2, 2003, in Washington, D.C., brought together leading health and nutrition experts from government agencies, top research universities and health advocacy organizations to examine the state of the science supporting daily multivitamin use and help chart the course for future research. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University and the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition and was supported by a grant from Wyeth Consumer Healthcare.

The Lewin Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Quintiles Transnational, is a nationally recognized health care and human services consulting firm in Falls Church, Va. The firm specializes in helping public and private sector clients solve complex problems in healthcare and human services with policy analysis, research and consulting.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as we near the end of the 108th Congress, I must express my disappointment that this Congress has failed to pass sensible gun safety legislation. By ignoring these bills we are missing opportunities to increase the security of our families, communities, and particularly our police officers.

The greatest of these missed opportunities has been the failure to reauthorize the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban. On September 13, 2004 this legislation expired, allowing 19 previously banned assault weapons, as well as firearms that can accept detachable magazines and have more than one of several specific military features, such as a folding/telescoping stock, protruding pistol grip, bayonet mount, threaded muzzle or flash suppressor, barrel shroud or grenade launcher to be legally sold again. Common sense tells us that there is no reason for civilians to have easy access to guns with these features.

Earlier this year, I joined with the majority of my Senate colleagues in passing an amendment to reauthorize the assault weapons ban for another 10 years. However, the bill to which it was attached was later derailed. Despite the overwhelming support of the law enforcement community, the ongoing threat of terrorism, bipartisan support in the Senate, and the pleas of Americans who have already lost loved ones to assault weapons tragedies, the ban was allowed to expire, as the President and the Republican congressional leadership were unwilling to act.

We also missed the opportunity to close the gun show loophole. Under current law, when an individual buys a handgun from a licensed dealer, there are Federal requirements for a background check to insure that the purchaser is not prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing a firearm. However, this is not the case for all

gun purchases. For example, when an individual wants to buy a handgun from another private citizen who is not a licensed gun dealer, there is no requirement that the seller ensure the purchaser is not in a prohibited category. This creates a loophole in the law, making it easy for criminals, terrorists, and other prohibited buyers to evade background checks and buy guns from private citizens. This loophole creates a gateway to the illegal market because criminals know they will not be subject to a background check when purchasing from another private citizen even at a gun show.

I cosponsored an amendment offered by Senators REED and MCCAIN which would have closed the gun show loophole because I believe it is a critical change needed to prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals and other ineligible buyers. This amendment would have simply applied existing law governing background checks to individuals buying firearms at gun shows. Like the amendment to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, the bill to which the amendment was attached was later defeated, and despite the fact that a bipartisan majority of Senators voted in support of closing the gun show loophole, Republican leadership has refused to schedule another vote on the issue.

This Congress has also failed to consider several other pieces of sensible gun safety legislation which would make it more difficult for convicted criminals to gain access to firearms. One such bill, the Military Sniper Regulation Act, would change the way .50 caliber guns are regulated by placing them under the requirements of the National Firearms Act. This would subject these weapons to the same regimen of registration and background checks as those weapons regulated under the National Firearms Act. These powerful weapons can accurately hit targets a mile away and tighter regulation is needed to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands.

Another bill not considered in the 108th Congress, the National Instant Criminal Background Check Improvement Act, would have provided funding to fix the hole in the current NICS background check system caused by the failure of many states to computerize and update their criminal history records. This failure can result in delays for some who lawfully seek to purchase a gun as well as an inability to block gun sales to some unlawful purchasers. To fix this problem, States need adequate funding to input and update criminal history data. This bill would have authorized \$1 billion to help states do just that.

Unfortunately, the 108th Congress has retreated from the goal of creating a safer nation by keeping dangerous guns off of our streets. Instead of strengthening laws that would help prevent future gun crimes and terrorist attacks, Congress has allowed legislation like the assault weapons ban to

expire, giving potential criminals and terrorists easier access to powerful weapons. The 108th Congress's record on gun safety is not one of which to be proud. I will continue to work toward passing sensible gun safety legislation to help make our communities more safe. I hope that next year in the 109th Congress, the Republican congressional leadership and the President will begin to work with the bipartisan majority who want to enact sensible gun safety legislation.

WHERE TO NEXT?

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, in the next several weeks I will be visiting Europe to meet with government and business leaders in London, Paris, and Brussels. I believe the United States' relationship with the European Union and the states of Europe is of supreme importance. America's economic, security, political, and institutional links with Europe are stronger and deeper than with any other region of the world. Recently, the importance of this relationship was explained very well in an article written by the Honorable James Elles, who is a Member of the European Parliament.

I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Elles's article be printed in the RECORD.

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

ON EU/US RELATIONS: WHERE TO NEXT?

Once the race for the US Presidency is finally over, the new President and his advisors will move from reflecting on the results of a successful campaign and will look for the conduct of policy in the months ahead.

What are the immediate priorities with which to deal on both the domestic and foreign fronts? How, for example, should economic growth best be fostered? How are priorities to be handled in far away places such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine? What is to be the real objective of the four-year mandate by which he would like to be judged as being a truly successful President?

As these questions are being mulled over between now and the Inaugural address early next year, he might reflect that thinking is taking place across the other side of the Atlantic on many of the same issues. Although the incoming Commission President has not yet got the approval of the European Parliament for his new team, he will be also considering how to answer a similar set of questions.

How similar are the policy challenges for the incoming EU and US administrations? Is it correct that Europe is swamped, as many would have us believe, by a huge anti-American wave generated by hostility to the Iraq War? Or is there an extensive common agenda which could be drawn up in the next few weeks and serve as a basis for joint action over the period 2005-2008?

Certainly, there is no shortage of potential flash points in external policy which the pessimists can draw attention to and which are already on the transatlantic agenda. The war against terrorism will certainly be at the top of the US agenda, in its continued search for ensuring domestic security.

In this context, the run-up to elections in IRAQ will require steel nerves. So will their aftermath, in particular, determining what