

and encouraging small businesses to grow. Unfortunately, the actions of this bill sadly contradicts their words. Aside from the fact that this bill allows up to 425,000 Federal jobs to be outsourced and up to 8 million private workers to be denied overtime compensation—two issues about which I spoke in my previous statement—it also cuts funds to the Small Business Administration by almost 19 percent and reduces initiatives that encourage small business growth in rural America by 77 percent. Instead of working towards creating new jobs and helping working families and individuals, the legislation creates yet another obstacle for millions of Americans to provide for themselves and their families.

Beyond these four points, the omnibus bill provides inadequate investment levels for a variety of other services and initiatives that are vital to our country. The bill cuts the Environmental Protection Agency budget by 3 percent over the fiscal year 2004 level and cuts conservation programs run by the Department of Agriculture by 4 percent; it provides inadequate resources to the National Institutes of Health and beneficial research projects undertaken by that agency; it provides inadequate resources to the COPS initiatives, reduces support available to law enforcement agencies, and virtually eliminates a successful grant initiative to assist those agencies in hiring more personnel; it cuts the National Science Foundation's budget by \$105 million over fiscal year 2004 levels and cuts \$38 million from important arts initiatives run by the Smithsonian, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities; and it freezes funding for Amtrak for the third year in a row—essentially negating any chance for our country to invest in new modes of regional rail transportation. Furthermore, every initiative in the bill suffers a further 0.8 percent reduction in support so that the strict budgetary restrictions imposed by the Bush administration would be met.

It is worth to note this bill is not completely without merit. There are increased investment in child nutrition assistance, food stamps, local transportation initiatives, and global HIV/AIDS prevention. There is also much-needed support for several important initiatives in my home State of Connecticut. Unfortunately, these positive provisions do not outshine the legislation's numerous shortcomings.

The President and several of our Republican colleagues have said repeatedly that the inadequate investment levels in this bill are designed to reduce the soaring deficits plaguing our country today. They go on to say that domestic initiatives are primarily responsible for the increasing deficits. Unfortunately, the facts before us today belie these assertions. According to a Congressional Budget Office report from September 7, 2004, it is not domestic investments but the grossly imbal-

anced tax cuts imposed by this administration that have chiefly caused our current deficit predicament—a predicament that promises to have long-term ramifications for the economic health of our country. According to CBO projections, the Bush tax cuts account for the majority of an expected \$5.5 trillion deficit increase over the next 7 years. They are projected to increase the deficit more than all domestic investment combined.

In short, this legislation, in my view, reflects a continuing failure to invest in the productive potential of our children, workers, and small businesses. I sincerely hope that the Senate will do better in the 109th Congress.

PROTECTING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, last Friday, December 3, 2004, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson, in his resignation speech, stated, "For the life of me, I cannot understand why the terrorists have not attacked our food supply because it is so easy to do so." These are strong words coming from the man charged with protecting the Nation's food supply. Yet this sort of warning is not news to those of us who follow this issue.

The security of our Nation's food supply is of great concern to me. Over the past year, the United States has been reminded repeatedly of the vulnerable nature of the American agriculture system and the ease with which terrorists could manipulate that vulnerability. In 2003, mad cow disease surfaced for the first time in Washington State and various strains of the avian influenza began cropping up across Asia and in the United States. I have come to the floor repeatedly over the past few years to call attention to this growing problem. I also introduced legislation to strengthen prevention and response efforts as early as 2002.

At a November 2003 Governmental Affairs Committee hearing, "Agroterrorism: The Threat to America's Breadbasket," Dr. Peter Chalk, a RAND policy analyst, testified that an attack on American livestock could be extremely attractive to a terrorist for the following four reasons: one, a low level of technology is needed to do considerable damage; two, at least 15 pathogens have the capability of severely harming the agriculture industry; three, a terrorist would not need to be at great personal risk in order to carry out a successful attack; and four, a disease could spread quickly throughout a city, State, or even the country.

Dr. Tom McGinn, formerly of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, demonstrated a computer-simulated attack of foot-and-mouth, or FMD, disease at our hearing where FMD was introduced in five States. According to Dr. McGinn's simulation, after five days 23 States would be infected; after 30 days 40 States would be

infected. In this scenario, it would be likely that the disease would not be detected until the fifth day and a national order to stop the interstate movement of livestock would take place a few days later. Using Dr. McGinn's assumptions, over 23 million animals would die from illness or need to be destroyed. It is horrifying that such a massive blow could strike one of the United States' largest markets by simply coordinating the infection of five animals.

As a senior member of the Governmental Affairs Committee, one of my greatest concerns is the lack of governmental organization—Federal, State, and local—to address this problem. Over 30 Federal agencies have jurisdiction over some part of the response process in the event of a breach of agricultural security.

In a report on the country's preparedness for responding to animal-borne diseases issued in August 2003, Trust for America's Health, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization founded to raise the profile of public health issues, stated:

The U.S. is left with a myriad of bureaucratic jurisdictions that respond to various aspects of the diseases, with little coordination and no clear plan for communicating with the public about the health threats posed by animal-borne diseases.

Protecting America's agriculture and its citizens requires Federal agencies to have clear areas of responsibility that leave no ground uncovered and open lines of communication, both between agencies and with the public.

State and local officials, and the communities they serve, are the front lines of defense for American agriculture. Without adequate resources, both in terms of funding and advice, these defenses will fail. Yet agriculture and food security have not been given the national attention necessary to prevent this failure.

On December 7, 2001, I stood on the floor of the Senate and warned of the vulnerability of American agriculture. To address my concerns, I introduced S. 2767, the Agriculture Security Preparedness Act, on July 22, 2002. My bill was not acted upon in the 107th Congress, so I continued my efforts in the 108th Congress with the introduction of S. 427, the Agriculture Security Assistance Act, and S. 430, the Agriculture Security Preparedness Act.

The Agriculture Security Assistance Act would assist States and communities in responding to threats to the agriculture industry by authorizing funds for: animal health professionals to participate in community emergency planning activities to assist farmers in strengthening their defenses against a terrorist threat; a biosecurity grant program for farmers and ranchers to provide needed funding to better secure their properties; and the use of sophisticated remote sensing and computer modeling approaches to agricultural diseases.

The Agriculture Security Preparedness Act would enable better inter-agency coordination within the Federal

Government by: establishing senior level liaisons in the Departments of Homeland Security, or DHS, and Health and Human Services to coordinate with the Department of Agriculture and all other relevant agencies on agricultural disease emergency management and response; requiring DHS and USDA to work with the Department of Transportation to address the risks associated with transporting animals, plants, and people between and around farms; requiring the Attorney General to conduct a review of relevant Federal, State, and local laws to determine if they facilitate or impede agricultural security; and directing the State Department to enter into mutual assistance agreements with foreign governments to facilitate the sharing of resources and knowledge of foreign animal diseases.

While some in the administration will say the situation is under control and there is no need for legislation from Congress, I would point to the failure of the Food and Drug Administration to comply with the basic food safety requirements in the Bioterrorism Act of 2002 in a timely manner. On Monday, the FDA published regulations requiring all companies involved in food production, processing, manufacturing, and transportation to keep detailed records identifying the source from which a food product was received and/or the recipient to whom a product was sent.

The Bioterrorism Act required that these regulations be issued by December 2003—a full 12 months ago. The administration will continue to drag its feet on this issue if we in the Congress are not attentive.

In the wake of Secretary Thompson's remarks, there has been much national attention given to the vulnerability of the American food supply. Some who had not focused on this issue in the past are publicly expressing concern about the safety of American food, and the national media is broadcasting special investigative reports on agroterrorism. President Bush was questioned about the issue during his press briefing with President Musharraf on Saturday.

The spotlight is being focused on this glaring weakness in U.S. security. We must do more to protect the American public from what experts describe as an obvious and vulnerable target. The real, and perceived, security of the Nation's food supply is critical to the continued prosperity of the United States. I will reintroduce S. 427 and S. 430 in the 109th Congress, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bills. Together we can move this legislation forward and demonstrate that Congress is protecting our food supply.

SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues a speech given by British

Prime Minister Tony Blair on September 14, 2004 at a dinner to mark the 10th Anniversary of his Royal Highness' Business and Environmental Programme. Prime Minister Blair states that he believes that climate change is the world's greatest environmental challenge. In the speech, Prime Minister Blair outlined his plans to have the G8 countries take action to address the causes and effects of climate change by reaching three basic agreements. The prime minister hopes to reach agreements on the basic science on climate change and the threat it poses; a process to speed up the research and deployment of technologies to meet the threat posed by climate change; and ways to meet the growing energy needs around the world without further impacting the world's climate.

I ask unanimous consent that the prime minister's speech on climate change be printed in the RECORD.

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

PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR SPEECH ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The 10th anniversary of His Royal Highness' Business and the Environment Programme marks what is now recognised as the premier international forum for exploring sustainable development in the context of business.

1. Over the coming months we will take forward the wider sustainable development and environment agenda. Margaret Beckett is working on a comprehensive DEFRA 5 year programme to be released this year and a new sustainable development strategy for early next year. This will deal with, amongst other matters, issues of waste, recycling, sustainable agriculture, all aspects of biodiversity; and fishing, and will set out policies in each key area. For example, on the marine environment, I believe there are strong arguments for a new approach to managing our seas, including a new Marine Bill.

But tonight I want to concentrate on what I believe to be the world's greatest environmental challenge: climate change.

Our effect on the environment, and in particular on climate change, is large and growing.

To summarise my argument at the outset: From the start of the industrial revolution more than 200 years ago, developed nations have achieved ever greater prosperity and higher living standards. But through this period our activities have come to affect our atmosphere, oceans, geology, chemistry and biodiversity.

What is now plain is that the emission of greenhouse gases, associated with industrialisation and strong economic growth from a world population that has increased sixfold in 200 years, is causing global warming at a rate that began as significant, has become alarming and is simply unsustainable in the long-term. And by long-term I do not mean centuries ahead. I mean within the lifetime of my children certainly; and possibly within my own. And by unsustainable, I do not mean a phenomenon causing problems of adjustment. I mean a challenge so far-reaching in its impact and irreversible in its destructive power, that it alters radically human existence.

The problem and let me state it frankly at the outset—is that the challenge is complicated politically by two factors. First, its likely effect will not be felt to its full extent

until after the time for the political decisions that need to be taken, has passed. In other words, there is a mismatch in timing between the environmental and electoral impact. Secondly, no one nation alone can resolve it. It has no definable boundaries. Short of international action commonly agreed and commonly followed through, it is hard even for a large country to make a difference on its own.

But there is no doubt that the time to act is now. It is now that timely action can avert disaster. It is now that with foresight and will such action can be taken without disturbing the essence of our way of life, by adjusting behaviour not altering it entirely.

There is one further preliminary point. Just as science and technology has given us the evidence to measure the danger of climate change, so it can help us find safety from it. The potential for innovation, for scientific discovery and hence, of course for business investment and growth, is enormous. With the right framework for action, the very act of solving it can unleash a new and benign commercial force to take the action forward, providing jobs, technology spin-offs and new business opportunities as well as protecting the world we live in.

But the issue is urgent. If there is one message I would leave with you and with the British people today it is one of urgency.

Let me turn now to the evidence itself. The scientific evidence of global warming and climate change: UK leadership in environmental science.

Apart from a diminishing handful of sceptics, there is a virtual worldwide scientific consensus on the scope of the problem. As long ago as 1988 concerned scientists set up an unprecedented intergovernmental panel to ensure that advice to the world's decision-makers was sound and reliable.

Literally thousands of scientists are now engaged in this work. They have scrutinised the data and developed some of the world's most powerful computer models to describe and predict our climate.

UK excellence in science is well documented: we are second only to the US in our share of the world's most cited publications.

And amongst our particular strengths are the environmental sciences, lead by the world-renowned Hadley and Tyndall centres for climate change research.

And from Arnold Schwarzenegger's California to Ningxia Province in China, the problem is being recognised.

Let me summarise the evidence:

The 10 warmest years on record have all been since 1990. Over the last century average global temperatures have risen by 0.6 degrees Celsius: the most drastic temperature rise for over 1,000 years in the northern hemisphere.

Extreme events are becoming more frequent. Glaciers are melting. Sea ice and snow cover is declining. Animals and plants are responding to an earlier spring. Sea levels are rising and are forecast to rise another 88cm by 2100 threatening 100m people globally who currently live below this level.

The number of people affected by floods worldwide has already risen from 7 million in the 1960s to 150 million today.

In Europe alone, the severe floods in 2002 had an estimated cost of \$16 billion.

This summer we have seen violent weather extremes in parts of the UK.

These environmental changes and severe weather events are already affecting the world insurance industry. Swiss Re, the world's second largest insurer, has estimated that the economic costs of global warming could double to \$150 billion each year in the next 10 years, hitting insurers with \$30-40 billion in claims.

By the middle of this century, temperatures could have risen enough to trigger irreversible melting of the Greenland ice-cap—