

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table, and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROPOSALS FOR SAFE RE-IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I announce for the information of my colleagues that, in consultation with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Senator DORGAN, Senator STABENOW, Senator MCCAIN, Senator COCHRAN, and other interested Senators, the Senate will begin a process for developing proposals that would allow for the safe reimportation of FDA-approved prescription drugs.

MIKE O'CALLAGHAN: A TRUE PATRIOT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the passing of a true American patriot and hero—Mike O'Callaghan. While I mourn Governor O'Callaghan's passing, I am heartened that we here in this Chamber will continue to feel the impact of this great man through the service of his protege and former student—Assistant Democratic Leader HARRY REID.

The essence of Governor O'Callaghan is perhaps best captured by an effort he undertook in Nicaragua in 1996. He was in that war-torn country to observe elections that would mark its first ever peaceful transition of power between democratically elected presidents.

At 66, Governor O'Callaghan could have asked to observe elections in the nation's capital or its second city, but he insisted on going north to the Honduran border to observe elections among some of the most marginalized people in a country of marginalized people. He had to go there in a battered truck over rained out roads because, he said, these were his people whom he had gotten to know in the 1980s, and he wanted to be with them as they celebrated the democracy they had earned.

That determination and generosity of spirit marked Governor O'Callaghan's

life. He was highly decorated—with the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with a V for valor, and the Silver Star—during the Korean War, during which he lost a leg.

Aware of that bravery and personal strength, Sargent Shriver reached out to Mike O'Callaghan to make him a point man in President Kennedy's and President Johnson's fight against poverty.

Also aware of that bravery and strength of character, the people of Nevada made him their Governor from 1971 to 1979.

It was HARRY REID's awareness of O'Callaghan's bravery and character that led me, with great pride, to recommend him just last month to serve on the Veterans Benefit Commission.

Governor O'Callaghan died last Friday morning doing what he did each and every morning of his life attending daily mass before he went to work at the Las Vegas Sun. He also fought for the poor and the disenfranchised—from Korea to Nicaragua to Nevada—each and every day of his life.

While we are saddened by the loss of Mike O'Callaghan, we can take comfort in the knowledge that his generosity of spirit, his strength of character, and his devotion to his State and country will not soon be forgotten, and that his values and commitment to public service live on in our colleague, and his close friend, HARRY REID.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNINE HOLT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am grateful for the opportunity today to pay tribute to a wonderful woman, dedicated public servant, and loyal staff member—Mrs. Jeannine Holt. Jeannine has been my Southern Utah Area Director for 27 years, and is now retiring to enjoy the many wonderful things that life has to offer. Jeannine has done a tremendous job in serving thousands of Utahns who needed assistance, direction, or just a listening ear.

Jeannine has worked on many important issues affecting our State including lands issues, private property rights, and health care. In recent years she played a pivotal role in helping southern Utah citizens receive compensation from the government for exposure to radiation. Her guidance has helped literally hundreds of radiation exposure victims and their families navigate the complicated process to receive some financial relief for the awful illnesses many have experienced.

Jeannine is a real southern Utah "treasure." She has always been an integral force in her community serving on various boards and committees including the Dixie State College Board of Trustees, the State Fair Board, the St. George Chamber of Commerce Board, and on the Rotary Bowl Committee. In addition, she has actively and energetically promoted the tourism industry in Utah's Dixie and has shared her love for the red rock canyons and sun-drenched lands of St.

George and its surrounding areas with people she meets each day.

Jeannine's love and loyalty for the republican philosophy has been evident in the many years she has served promoting the ideals and values of the Republican party. She has literally donated thousands of hours working for candidates, and campaigns who share her commitment to Republican principles. For 20 years she has served as the vice chairwoman of the Washington County Republican Party, a position she has undertaken with distinction and honor.

Jeannine was also one of the founding members of the Women's Conference in Dixie, a conference which brings together hundreds of women each year from all over southern Utah to discuss important issues affecting the health and well-being of women and families. From its inception 18 years ago to today, this conference has established itself as an important forum for women from all over southern Utah to attend and enjoy.

In addition to the service she has rendered in the community and on my staff, Jeannine is a loving wife to her husband Stan. They have worked side-by-side for many years on projects benefiting their community and have buoyed each other up through life's twists and turns. Jeannine is also a loving mother of 3 and grandmother of 6.

I am grateful for the service that Jeannine Holt has given to me, to her community and to the State. She has been by my side for many years and has always been a vital component of my Senate organization. I will miss her tremendously but know that life holds many wonderful things for her to savor and enjoy. Jeannine Holt is a dedicated public servant, fervently patriotic American, and loyal and cherished friend. I want to wish her the very best in retirement and pray for her continued good health, success and happiness.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this Nation has always been driven forward by a passion for discovery and a sense of adventure. From our earliest days as a nation, these deeply rooted American qualities have spurred our determination to explore new scientific frontiers and sparked our entrepreneurial spirit of technological innovation. We know in our very fiber that America's strength, prosperity, and global preeminence depend directly on scientific research and technological innovation.

This is not conjecture. The scientific and economic record of the past half-century constitutes overwhelming proof. Yet, today, our scientific progress, and the high-tech, high-wage jobs it creates, are at risk because the Bush administration is failing to sustain America's commitment to basic research.

The Federal Government has seen its research and development, R&D, investments steadily decline as a share of

the U.S. economy, bringing the federal investment down to levels not seen since the midsixties. Federal R&D has declined in dollar terms over many years, and even in years when the investment has increased, it has declined sharply relative to our economic growth rate, barely keeping pace with inflation. Physical sciences, math, and engineering have been particularly affected.

Unfortunately, the administration's R&D budgets only worsen this trend. Although Federal funding is set to increase 4.7 percent, nearly all of that increase would go to only two Departments—the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security—for the development of weapons systems and counterterrorism technology. These are necessary investments that will make our Nation safer. But the remaining Federal R&D investments, which generate new knowledge, improve healthcare, and protect the environment, will actually shrink.

This failure to adequately invest in America's research portfolio is taking a toll on the work of America's scientists, and it will affect the lives of all Americans. In my home State of South Dakota, the Earth Research Observation System does work that helps us become more responsible stewards of the environment, while increasing the yields of farmers all over the world. But this research is being endangered because of the administration's severe budget cuts.

You don't need to be a rocket scientist to figure out why funding is being cut for nearly all nondefense basic science and technology programs. These vital investments in America's future are being cut to provide enormous tax breaks for large corporations and the wealthy elite. This is shortsighted, and it is dangerous. The President's own science advisors warn that Federal support for physical sciences and engineering is dropping, while U.S. student enrollment in those disciplines also continues to fall. Reversing these trends is crucial to our Nation's future.

We are on the verge of a new industrial world order. Already, almost any service that can be delivered in bits and bytes and does not require face-to-face interaction with customers is up for grabs. The big winners in the intense global struggle for economic predominance will not be those who simply produce products cheaper and faster than their competition. The big winners will be those countries that nurture the talent, discover the techniques, and invent the tools so advanced there is no competition.

Unfortunately, measured in terms of the number of scientific publications, science is growing faster in the European Union than in the U.S., according to 15 key indicators related to human resources, investment, and scientific productivity. This ought to raise red flags for all of us. Economic growth follows scientific discovery, and if America falls behind in science, the fallout

will ripple throughout our economy, dragging down productivity and slowing job creation.

The administration's disregard for science extends beyond budgetary choices. Just last month, the Union of Concerned Scientists released a report charging that the White House has systematically undermined the spirit of objective science. The report states that the Bush administration "has suppressed or distorted the scientific analyses of federal agencies to bring these results in line with administration policy."

Time and again, the administration is choosing politics over rational science.

South Dakotans know what this is like. The Missouri River is part of the cultural and economic heart of our State. In recent years, a broad scientific consensus has developed that mismanagement by the Army Corps of Engineers is harming the Missouri River, and that the flow of the river should be restored to a more natural state to protect the ecology and habitat of endangered species. Just last year, an analysis by the top scientists at the administration's Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed this consensus. And yet the administration set aside the scientists' report, replaced the scientists with another panel more to its liking, and today continues to fight court orders requiring more responsible stewardship.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch recently ran an editorial saying, "As purges go, this one has Stalinist subtlety." And that is from a leading newspaper in the area that supposedly would benefit economically from the Corps' decision.

The White House's 2001 report on global warming is another troubling case study in the politicization of science. When the science pointed to the fact that fossil fuel production and consumption contributes to global warming, the White House deleted that finding from the report. In its place, they inserted a reference to an opposing study that was financed by the American Petroleum Institute. Whenever the administration has had the opportunity, it has stacked the deck by staffing research boards and advisory councils with researchers who have shown allegiance to the White House's political goals.

Just last week, the President dismissed two advisers from his Council on Bioethics because of their positions on stem cell research. And last month, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson admitted that his agency had made a mistake in altering the conclusions of scientists who found significant and pervasive racial disparities in health care in the United States. I am pleased that this "mistake" has been rectified, but concerned that it only happened after an investigation uncovered that the Department had altered scientific conclusions in order to downplay the problem of unequal health care for minorities.

This is not real science. This is "vending machine science." The administration thinks it can pull a lever and get the results it wants. For the sake of short-term political gain, the administration is basing its decisions on weak science. As a result, it is putting at risk America's economic strength, our future prosperity, and our health and safety.

That is why increasing numbers of leaders in government, industry, and academia—all concerned about sustaining U.S. leadership across the frontiers of scientific knowledge—are beginning to question whether the United States is starting to lose its edge in basic scientific research. They worry that the Bush administration, by undercutting scientific research in key areas, has lost sight of the importance of long-term investments that help create the necessary conditions for prosperity. They worry that this failure of intellectual leadership will erode the high standing American science has achieved in the past half-century.

Their apprehension is well justified. The pace of scientific discovery is quickening. Research is more important to the day-to-day lives of Americans than ever before. Cutting back on research at the dawn of this new century would be like cutting our defense budget at the height of World War II. Leadership across the frontiers of scientific knowledge is not merely a cultural tradition of our Nation; today, it is an economic and security imperative.

We must ensure that America remains at the epicenter of the ongoing revolution in scientific research and technological innovation that generates new knowledge, creates new jobs, and builds new industries. By sustaining our investments in fundamental research, we can ensure that America remains at the forefront of scientific capability, thereby enhancing our ability to shape and improve our Nation's future and the world's future.

DETENTION OF ENEMY COMBATANTS IN THE WAR ON TERROR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, as elected representatives of the American people, Senators seek to ensure that the U.S. Government protects the American people from international terrorism. We seek also to ensure that the cherished liberties of the American people are preserved, and to keep the people as fully informed as possible, as we fight the war on terror.

On February 24, 2004, the Counsel to the President of the United States, former Texas Supreme Court Judge Alberto R. Gonzales, addressed the Standing Committee on Law and National Security of the American Bar Association. Judge Gonzales discussed the legal basis for detention of enemy combatants in the war on terror, including U.S. citizens Yaser Hamdi and Jose Padilla. His address set forth details of the decisionmaking steps that