

FPI REFORM BILL

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today I voice my support for the Federal prison industries, FPI, reform bill.

This bill would level the playing field for small businesses and provide relief to all Federal agencies by amending the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act to establish a Governmentwide policy requiring competition in certain executive agency procurements.

I understand the importance of keeping our Federal prisoners occupied, but not at the expense of our law abiding, American small businesses. As a Senator representing the great State of Montana, where small business dominates our economy, I have a vital interest in protecting business from unfair Government competition. Many times bids were requested from private firms that offered better pricing and more reasonable terms of delivery. I am for fair competition in the Government procurement process. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that no Government entity, such as FPI, has special status in the Government procurement process that forces Government agencies to buy from that entity. This contradicts one of the fundamental ideas in which this great Nation was founded upon, the ideal of competition. Accordingly, I provide my support to protect small business interests across Montana and America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JULIA COOK

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the Senate's attention the retirement of a Colorado native from the U.S. Army, LTC Julia Cook.

Lieutenant Colonel Cook has distinguished herself with exceptionally meritorious conduct while serving in key positions of ever increasing responsibility as an Army quartermaster and human resources officer, culminating her career as a legislative liaison for Secretary of the Army, Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison. During her years of superlative service, Lieutenant Colonel Cook consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, resourcefulness and professionalism while making lasting contributions to Army soldiers and families, readiness and mission accomplishment. Lieutenant Colonel Cook's 20 years of dedicated and faithful service enhanced the soldiers and the units to which she was assigned and reflects the greatest credit upon herself and the U.S. Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Cook was commissioned a second lieutenant through the ROTC program, Quartermaster Corps, after graduating from the University of Colorado in December 1984. Her first assignment, following the quartermaster officer basic course, was to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, from 1985 to 1986, serving as XO for an AIT company that trained 63Bs and 64Cs and as an as-

sistant brigade S4. She volunteered to serve in Korea from 1986 to 1988, distinguishing herself as tech supply platoon leader in 595th Maintenance Company, K-16 Air Base and as battalion S1, 227th Maintenance Battalion, Youngman. Following her tour in Korea, she completed the quartermaster officer advance course and was assigned to Ft. Carson, CO, from 1988 to 1993. Again she served superbly in a variety of positions, as the 4th ID DISCOM support operations officer; the S2/3, 704th Main Support Battalion; as commander, Company C, 704th Main Support Battalion; and as the division equal opportunity officer. She also deployed on a 6-month rotation to JTF-B, Honduras, serving as the logistics plans officer. From 1993 to 1997 she performed her duties as a soldier assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Army Materiel Command, AMC. She served in a variety of positions including, logistics operations officer in the Emergency Operations Center, staff action control officer for the Secretary of the General Staff, executive officer for the Chief of Staff, special project officer to Project Manager Soldier, and team executive officer for the Secretary of the Army's Senior Review Panel on Sexual Harassment after the Aberdeen Proving Ground Sexual Harassment scandal.

After graduation from the Command and General Staff College, she was assigned to the 21st Theater Support Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany, from 1998 to 2001. While overseas, she served as chief, Distribution Management Center, where she developed supply distribution initiatives for a command supporting over 65,000 soldiers in European-based units. Lieutenant Colonel Cook's work enabled the Command to reduce shipping costs through the air challenge process by \$2 million for the first two quarters of fiscal year 1999. She served as executive officer of the 191st Ordnance Battalion, Miesau, Germany, and was responsible for internal operations of a 600-soldier battalion consisting of a headquarters and headquarters company, an ammunition company, a quartermaster rigging detachment, and two explosive ordnance disposal companies, all while exercising oversight of a \$2 million annual budget. Lieutenant Colonel Cook finished her career serving with the Army's office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison from August 2001 to May 2005 where she was the staff action officer and legislative assistant to the Undersecretary of the Army and the Sergeant Major of the Army. She prepared the Undersecretary and Sergeant Major for all interactions with Congress including hearings, office calls, and phone calls. Finally, she served in the program division as the Army legislative liaison between the U.S. Congress and the Army staff for all issues related to logistics.

Through these assignments, Lieutenant Colonel Cook has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous

critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. Her actions and counsel were invaluable to Army leaders and Members of Congress as they considered the impact of important issues. Lieutenant Colonel Cook's dedication to accomplishing the Army's legislative liaison mission has been extraordinary. She is truly an outstanding officer who displays superb professional leadership skills and is totally dedicated to mission accomplishment in the highest traditions of military service, and I thank her for her service to this great Nation.●

RETIREMENT OF BILLY ROSS BROWN

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, my friend, Billy Ross Brown, has retired from the First South Farm Credit, ACA Board of Directors where he served faithfully for many years.

Billy Ross became a director on the Oxford, MS, PCA Board in 1968 and he served as chairman of the board from 1975 to 1985. He was then elected to serve on the First South Farm Credit Board and served from 1985 to 1990.

He left the First South Board after being recommended by me and appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve on the Board of the Farm Credit Administration and the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation in Washington, DC. During this time he served as the first chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation where he nurtured it through its startup as a Federal agency and directed it as it began to capitalize the Farm Credit System insurance fund. He was subsequently appointed chairman and CEO of the Farm Credit Administration where he served with distinction until October 1974.

While at the FCA, he undertook the first critical internal review of the agency, which provided him with useful insights and perspectives as he guided the agency through a difficult period of adjustment, following the system's financial stress in the mid-1980s. At his recommendation and under his direction, FCA undertook its first efforts at relieving regulatory burdens. He authored the agency's first statement on regulatory philosophy which reflected his commitment to cost-effective regulation and risk-based examination and supervision. It was his belief that any cost savings or efficiencies derived by the cooperatively owned Farm Credit Institutions would ultimately benefit the system's farmer borrowers and thereby benefit all agricultural producers.

After Billy Ross moved back to Oxford from Washington, the First South Farm Credit nominating committee nominated Billy Ross to run again for the First South Farm Credit Board. Billy Ross served again on the First South Board from June 1999 until his mandatory retirement in March 2005.

Billy Ross has served the Farm Credit System and U.S. agricultural interests for over 36 years. Combined with

his father's service to the Farm Credit and the local PCA, the immediate Brown family has over 55 years of service to American agriculture.

No person has served First South Farm Credit, ACA, the Farm Credit Administration, and the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation with more loyalty, dignity, and honor than Billy Ross Brown.

Over the years, I have observed Billy Ross' dedicated service to his family, his community and his country. He is a true gentleman with a great heart and love for all mankind.

While I wish him well in his retirement, I suspect he will continue to be involved in the ongoing success of Mississippi agricultural interests and I hope he will still find time to fish with his friends, but only if the weather is good.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO BERNICE DICKERSON

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Bernice Dickerson of Adairville, KY, for her service on the Adairville City Council.

At age 91, Mrs. Dickerson has dedicated herself to improving the community of Adairville. As a councilwoman for Adairville, Mrs. Dickerson has made a difference in people's lives and has served as an example for all who know her.

The citizens of Kentucky are fortunate to have the leadership of Bernice Dickerson. Her example of dedication, hard work and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth. She has my most sincere appreciation for her work and I look forward to her continued service to Kentucky.●

INSTITUTE OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus whose assistance to New York's Italian community in the late 19th century is a model for immigrant outreach. The efforts of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus initiated by the first American citizen saint, Frances Cabrini, led the Vatican to name her Patroness of Immigrants.

From the missionary sisters' first New York initiative, a home for destitute Italian orphans that opened in 1889, to the vibrant network of schools, hospitals and social service agencies serving immigrants in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Illinois, Colorado, Washington State and California, as well as New York, the missionary sisters brought solace to immigrants in both urban and rural areas, visiting them in homes, public hospitals, prisons and mines. Today this enduring mission flourishes in 16 nations on six continents where the Cabrinian reli-

gious institute eases misery, works for justice, and educates new generations. The institute's compassionate work cares for AIDS orphans in Swaziland and street children in the Philippines, provides health and child care and educates young people in Australia, Central and South America and the United States.

Frances Cabrini's legacy can be seen in 21st century New York State in Dobbs Ferry at the St. Cabrini Nursing Home and the Cabrini Elder Care Consortium. Dobbs Ferry is also home to the Monsignor Terence Attridge Adult Day Health Center and Cabrini Immigrant Services. New York City is fortunate to have the Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, Cabrini Care at Home, Cabrini Immigrant Services, Cabrini Hospital, Sister Josephine Tsuei Senior Day Services, Cabrini High School, the Cabrini Shrine and the Cabrini Housing Development Fund's apartments for the elderly.

This year the St. Cabrini Nursing Home honors two individuals who exemplify the dedication and service of the Cabrinian values—Donna McNamara whose efforts were crucial to the creation of Cabrini Immigrant Services and Cabrini Care at Home; and James A. Smith, longtime board member who has given leadership to the Cabrini Elder Care Consortium. I am thankful for the efforts of Ms. McNamara and Mr. Smith and for the 125 years of compassion and care that are hallmarks of the life of Frances Cabrini and those who continue to serve the ideals to which she dedicated her life.●

NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPION

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team for their second straight NCAA Division III national championship. The Pointers capped off a dominating run through the tournament with their victory over Rochester University in the championship game. With the victory, the Pointers become just the third team in NCAA Division III history to win back to back titles. The championship game was also a milestone for Head Coach Jack Bennett, who earned his 200th career victory with the win and has since been selected as the Basketball Times Coach of the Year.

The Pointers posted a terrific 29-3 record this season, winning many of their games by wide margins and tying the school record for wins in a season set last year. The Pointers had the stingiest defense in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference this season, allowing just over 56 points a game. They also outscored their opponents by an overwhelming average of 17 points per game. Stevens Point led their conference in many statistical categories, including three-point and overall shooting percentage

and assists. Their tough play throughout the season earned them a share of the conference championship. The Pointers also won their second straight WIAC Tournament title.

A talented roster of student-athletes, led by All-American Nick Bennett and Division III Men's Basketball Player of the Year Jason Kalsow, played unselfishly and always with passion. Members of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team that fought hard for the championship include senior Tamaris Relerford from Beloit, WI; freshman Shawn Lee from Marshfield, WI; sophomore Brett Hirsch from Menomonee Falls, WI; freshman Brad Kalsow from Huntley, IL; freshman Steve Hicklin from Sussex, WI; senior Kyle Grusczyński from Seymour, WI; sophomore Cory Krautkramer from Cameron, WI; sophomore Jon Krull from Marshall, WI; junior Matt Bouche from Dane, WI; junior Brian Bauer from Auburndale, WI; junior Mike Prey from Shawano, WI; senior Eric Maus from Green Bay, WI; freshman Gbena Awe from Milwaukee, WI; freshman Tyler Doyle from Appleton, WI; freshman Matt Atkinson from Suamico, WI; senior John Gleich from Wheaton, IL; and freshman Zach Leahy from Hartland, WI. Many of these champions are volunteers in the community at basketball camps and with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. They are also students dedicated to academics as well as to basketball.

The team's competitive spirit is an inspiration to youngsters in Wisconsin. When March Madness is in the air, Division III may not always be in the spotlight. But the Pointers' second straight national championship is a trophy all Wisconsinites are proud of. Their victory is a substantial part of the incredible postseason for Wisconsin college basketball teams.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Intelligence.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-1545. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer,