

his book. The contest was conducted under the Public Diplomacy Program of the Embassy, and I commend the State Department and the Ambassador for this inspiring initiative.

The author of the winning essay is Ivan Dmitriyevich Yevstafyev, a 15-year old student in the ninth grade at the Second School Lyceum in Moscow. His essay, "Genius and Villain," describes how Anatoly Chubais took on and carried out the immense responsibility for the vast economic reform under President Yeltsin that privatized much of the Russian economy during the 1990s. He knew that his actions would be unpopular, but he believed very deeply that the reforms served the national interest in moving Russia toward democracy, and as the essay states, he carried them out with extraordinary courage.

The "villain" in the title refers to the intense controversy over the phase of the program that privatized the energy sector amid charges of corruption and insider dealing relating to the rise of the oligarchs—hence the essay's reference to President Yeltsin's remark, "It's all Chubais' fault."

The essay has been translated into English by the Embassy, and I find it extremely inspiring. I am sure President Kennedy would be proud of Mr. Yevstafyev and his impressive essay, and proud of the Embassy for reaching out to young Russians in this appealing way and encouraging their appreciation of the importance of political courage in pursuing the path to a better future for their nation.

I believe the essay will be of interest to all our colleagues in Congress, and I ask unanimous consent that it may be printed in the RECORD.

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

GENIUS AND VILLAIN

(By Ivan Dmitriyevich Yevstafyev)

I would like to write about Anatoly Chubais, a politician of extraordinary civic courage who was strong enough to remain true to himself and stay on the road he had chosen despite the pressure of circumstances. I am aware that the figure I have chosen is ambiguous and sometimes unpopular. "Genius and villainy do not go together." This phrase has been used so often that it has become commonplace. But we have to admit that Chubais, together with the team of "The Young Reformers," is an economic genius. His villainy is similar to the evil actions of a surgeon who mercilessly cuts a gangrenous limb to save a patient's life.

Chubais is not popular because of his perceived "cynicism." In my opinion, he just openly talks about problems and complications that accompany every victory. He does not promise wonders. But the "shock therapy" without the use of anesthesia cannot be popular by definition.

In the fall of 1991, when Yegor Gaydar wanted Chubais to become the head of the Department of Privatization, the future minister and deputy head of government asked, "Do you realize that, regardless of the result, people will hate me for the rest of my life, because for them I will be the man who sold Russia and who sold it the wrong way?"

It was a rhetorical question, of course. Gaydar had no doubt that Chubais would accept responsibility.

I think that taking upon oneself the responsibility for carrying out the necessary, but extremely unpopular action on a national scale, and performing it efficiently and quickly, demands from a politician and a person true civic courage. His contemporaries are not able to appreciate the importance of his actions.

Through his privatization Chubais was not only making a bourgeois revolution that was virtually bloodless, but every day he made history that was "sold" piping hot together with the state property. Under enormous pressure from his opponents, Chubais managed to solve two problems of privatization: he made the process irreversible, and he took the property from bureaucratic hands and carried out the privatization, making compromises with all concerned parties to keep the society peaceful. As a result, by the middle of 1994, an organizational miracle occurred: the "voucher privatization" was over. Two-thirds of property became private. The time for a monetary stage had come.

Beginning in March 1995, the system of "shares-for-loans" auctions was put into effect. As a result, the state budget received one billion dollars that contributed to the financial stabilization to come. Thanks to the auction system, big industrial enterprises received their owners. The ten interceding years have shown that these owners are efficient.

"When someone accuses us of taking the 'pearls of the Russian Imperial Crown' and giving them out, we disagree," explains Chubais. "These so-called 'pearls' were nothing—complete failures. Thanks to privatization, these industrial ruins were turned into pearls of the new Russian market economy. We helped private shareholders to become owners through the legal procedures. As a result, they resurrected these businesses and transformed them into active enterprises."

Charismatic leaders are always in favor in Russia. It is our mentality. Anatoly Chubais' charisma has a limited range. It does not affect all people. But his team obeys him like privateers obey their general. You can call Chubais an outstanding manipulator, but his readiness to negotiate with the outraged audience proves his everyday courage. For example, he won the sympathy of miners at a depth of 790 meters, where the striking miners agreed to meet with the then deputy head of government. The story had a mellow, almost fairy-tale end: privatization of coal mines, regular payrolls and transformation of the mining industry into a profitable one.

His political credo: "We survived because surviving has never been our priority task. When the French Revolution ended, one of its key figures was asked what he had been doing during the revolution. His answer was, 'I tried to survive.' As for me, I never tried to survive."

Chubais' motto is, "If not me, then who?" Probably, in the political history of Russia there are things no one but he could do. But they have to be done—for the future of Russia and for our own future. In this respect, our hero is a very lonely man. As lonely as only a reformer can be—the one who sets up tasks that only he can perform. The role of a personality in the history of Russia has always been important. Let's not disregard this. That is why a popular remark attributed to Yeltsin is quite true: "It's all Chubais' fault." Everybody can interpret it in one's own way—positive or negative.

In 1998, Chubais began to manage a whole empire—as CEO of United Energy Systems of Russia. The initial set of key problems and parameters was very Chubais-like: an industry on the verge of collapse, covering an

enormous geographic area, whose whole system desperately needed reforms. Energy is the heart of economics. Over these years, the sick heart has almost healed, although at the beginning it seemed impossible.

History does not use conditional tenses, but only because it is made by outstanding figures, who do not care about means in order to achieve their goals and solve problems of historical importance. I see my hero as a person who was remodeled by history, but who also dared to recast history. Several times he succeeded.

In politics, Chubais is a man of compromise—there the end often justifies the means. But for him ideology is more important than political profit. Besides, he is just a brave man: only a person of integrity and courage could tell Vladimir Putin that he and the Russian people are wrong about the issue of Stalin's anthem.

As the head of United Energy Systems, he took upon himself the role of formulating and voicing the negative reaction of Russian business to the arrest of Mikhail Khodorkovsky on October 25, 2003. The clear impression was made that the bosses of business used him as a "human shield," as had already happened in 1996 and 1998. Perhaps, that's how it was. But Chubais stated that it was his "inner decision."

Those who clean the Augean stables of gloomy epochs and lost opportunities do not always enjoy a good reputation among their contemporaries. Thirteen years ago, several people sacrificed their reputations by taking responsibility for changes in the country. Chubais continues to work. His achievements are spread in time and therefore do not clearly stand out. His goal is to turn Russia into a market democracy. One criterion for evaluating Chubais is the country that we have now and the one we will have in the future—the country that is moving from coup d'états to guided democracy and maybe to real democracy. History is made by people who eventually bring success to their country.

Although Chubais is already in the history books, the goal he set for himself has not been achieved yet. The liberal Russia is being built online.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICE BOLLING AND MELISSA MOODY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today with some sadness, but also with great pride, to announce that two of my most trusted Senate aides will be leaving my staff. Both have been faithful and selfless in their service to the State of Arkansas, and their contributions will be sorely missed by me, my staff, and the many Arkansans who have had the great fortune of working with these two wonderful public servants.

Patrice Bolling first came to my office before I had even been officially sworn in as Senator. However, she has known the importance of public service much longer. While still in college, Patrice came to Washington for a summer internship in the White House Scheduling Office during the Clinton Administration. She also had the opportunity to work on the staff of my good friend, Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas. Not long after receiving her diploma from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, she worked for the Democratic Party of Arkansas and soon found herself serving as executive

director of the State party. Patrice then returned to Washington to serve as the scheduler, executive assistant and legislative assistant on the staff of Congressman Marion Berry of Arkansas. I personally came to know Patrice's hard work and dedication when she took time from her duties on Congressman BERRY's staff to work on my campaign for Senate in 2002. Soon after my election, Patrice came to my staff as the scheduler—and I am not sure that my good friend, Congressman BERRY, has ever forgiven me. Since that time, I have found Patrice to be an invaluable asset to my staff; so much so that earlier this year she became our office's operations director. Patrice's leadership in helping establish my Washington, DC office was instrumental. While I am sad to see Patrice leave my staff, I am proud of what she has helped our office accomplish in the past 2½ years. I am confident she will prove as valuable in her new position with a top advertising firm in Austin, TX, and I wish her nothing but the best of luck.

Melissa Moody has been involved in public service to the State of Arkansas since her graduation from the University of Arkansas. She too worked for Senator Bumpers as an intern and as a staff member before returning to Arkansas to pursue a law degree. Although she had not yet finished her studies at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law School, Melissa accepted my invitation to join my staff in the Arkansas attorney general's office during my term there. It was there that I saw what an outstanding attitude and work ethic she possesses. She later became my scheduler during my Senate campaign and later returned to Washington as my executive assistant. From the time I met Melissa 6 years ago, she has proven herself to be a dedicated, organized, hardworking, and caring employee. While the demands of her responsibilities would be overwhelming to some, she has always remained levelheaded. Her concern for others, her sense of humor, and her consistent optimism have made her a favorite of her coworkers and a good friend to me. She has been an integral part of our office's success. Melissa is moving home to Arkansas to practice law, where I am certain that the traits that allowed her to become one of my most indispensable staffers will allow her to be a successful and compassionate advocate for her clients. I wish her every success.

Both Patrice and Melissa will be missed by my staff and me. We all wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors and look forward to the day our paths will cross again.

POSTAL REFORM

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to make some remarks on S. 662, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2005. I have decided to support this legis-

lation and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I have heard from Montana's postmasters, rural letter carriers, and customers that the U.S. Postal Service faces several long-term financial challenges that must be fixed.

In the last 5 years alone, first class mail, which accounts for over half of all postal revenue, has dropped dramatically. As different ways of communicating emerge, like using e-mail, the Postal Service will continue to struggle in order to preserve delivery to every address. In other words, if something is not done, the Postal Service will struggle to maintain universal service. This bill guarantees universal service, and as a rural State, Montana relies on this assurance. The Postal Service is the only service provider available in many parts of Montana and allows residents to stay in contact with folks cross the country and the world.

This bill helps resolve the problems with the escrow account. By releasing these funds, the Postal Service would be able to minimize rate increases, help pay off debt owed to the U.S. Treasury, and assist funding health care obligations for their employees.

Recently, a Montanan called me saying, "If something is not done to preserve the Postal Service, I, along with 3000 Postal employees in Montana, will lose our jobs. We will lose, Montana will lose and most of all, America will lose." Mr. President, I agree, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2005.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELISABETH JANE FISHER

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Elizabeth Jane Fisher of Boise, ID. She has been named as one of eight national finalists for the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award.

Ms. Fisher is being recognized for her ability to develop and use creative methods to make history interesting for her students. As a teacher at Riverstone Community School in Boise, she helps to cultivate exciting discoveries about the past. Her countless hours devoted to the Idaho National History Day have helped to promote an educationally stimulating experience for her dedicated students. She is committed to helping students develop their interests in history and recognize their achievements.

I am heartened by the fact that there are educators who devote much time and effort to shaping the minds of our young people. Teachers educate the future leaders of our country. I am happy to recognize one such teacher who truly is making a difference. Again, let me commend Elizabeth Fisher for this accomplishment. I wish her all the best as she continues her efforts in educating the children of Idaho. •

CELEBRATING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I want to take a moment to pay tribute to Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this week in Chicago. Paul P. Harris' establishment of the original Chicago chapter heralded an era of philanthropic activity and community building that has flourished throughout the last century. Rotary International's extensive public service stands as an example of what we can accomplish through organization and commitment to the common good.

Since its inception, our nation has relied on the cooperation of disparate communities to achieve common goals. Rotary Clubs provide a critical forum of communication for leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds to share information and ideas. Through Rotary, men and women from myriad professions can share thoughts from their distinct perspectives. These perspectives are what gives Rotary its great strength, and have enabled the organization to accomplish so much in the last century.

Without a doubt, one of those great accomplishments has been Rotary International's work, begun in 1985, to eradicate polio through its PolioPlus program. Thanks to the efforts of Rotarians worldwide, the Western Hemisphere, Europe, and the Western Pacific have been declared polio-free. Rotary's continuing success combating polio provides hope to the world's health community as we struggle against the ravages of disease. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of S. Res. 62, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a "Rotary International Day" and celebrating and honoring Rotary International on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. Last Congress, I was also pleased to be the lead Democratic co-sponsor of S. Con. Res. 111, a resolution expressing the sense of the U.S. Congress that a commemorative stamp should be issued in honor of the centennial anniversary of Rotary International and its work to eradicate this disease.

In addition to Rotary's work to combat polio, the organization also provides indispensable support to students. The Rotary Student of the Month program consistently encourages high school students to become leaders in their schools and communities, while the Rotary scholarship program provides funds for deserving students.

The list of Rotary's contributions to our communities goes on and on. I join people across the U.S., and around the world this year who honor Rotary's many accomplishments as the organization celebrates 100 years of service. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for the organization's next 100 years. •