

United States and to the entire world economy. I was therefore pleased that the Bush administration announced on June 30 that the United States would maintain its historic role over the Internet's master "root" file that lists all authorized top-level domains. The U.S. Principles on the Internet's Domain Name and Addressing System issued last month are: (1) The U.S. Government will preserve the security and stability of the Internet's Domain Name and Addressing System, DNS. It will take no action with the potential to adversely affect the effective and efficient operation of the DNS. (2) Governments have a legitimate interest in the management of their own country code top level domains (ccTLD). The U.S. will work with the international community to address these concerns in a manner consistent with Internet stability and security. (3) ICANN is the appropriate technical manager of the Internet DNS. The U.S. will continue to provide oversight so that ICANN maintains its focus and meets its core technical mission. (4) Dialogue related to Internet governance should continue in relevant multiple fora. The U.S. will encourage an ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders around the world, and in the ensuing discussions the U.S. will continue to support market-based approaches and private sector leadership in the Internet's further development.

I applaud President Bush for clearly and forcefully asserting that the U.S. has no present intention of relinquishing the historic leading role it has played in Internet governance, and for articulating a vision of the Internet's future that places privatization over politicization. At the same time the administration has recognized the need for a continuing and constructive dialogue with the world community on the future of Internet governance.

I intend to closely monitor further U.N. actions in this area, especially the upcoming November meeting of the World Summit on the Information Society, WSIS, in Tunisia. I also plan to consult with experts and stakeholders regarding Internet governance, and will assess whether a legislative approach is needed to ensure the principles laid out by the administration remain the basis of discussion on this critical issue.

The growth of the Internet over the past decade, under the leadership and supervision of the United States, has been extraordinary. Over the next decade we can expect to see the global population with Internet access grow far beyond the 1 billion persons who presently enjoy that ability. The population of the developing world deserves the access to knowledge, services, commerce, and communication that the Internet can provide, along with the accompanying benefits to economic development, education, health care, and the informed discussion that is the bedrock of democratic self-government. Inserting the United Nations into Internet governance would be a dan-

gerous detour likely to hinder, if not cripple, the fulfillment of the full promise of the most dynamic and important communications infrastructure in all of human history. We simply cannot afford the delay and diversion that would result from such an unfortunate deviation from the path that has brought the Internet to its present and almost miraculous state of success.

AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. President, I rise today to praise the American Veterinary Medical Association for their efforts in ensuring the highest standards for animal and public health in this country. Before coming to Congress, I practiced veterinary medicine, and I appreciate the AVMA's role in helping veterinarians excel and grow in their professions.

At this time, I would like to read for the record remarks recently given by the president-elect of the AVMA, Dr. Henry E. Childers, at their 142nd Annual Convention in Minneapolis:

Members of the House of Delegates, the World Veterinary Association, other international guests, friends and colleagues . . . I am honored to be a part of this historic gathering. I am especially pleased to welcome my fellow veterinarians from around the world and to be addressing those participating in the first gathering of the World Veterinary Association in the United States since 1934.

Seventy-one years ago, the AVMA and the World Veterinary Association met to discuss the hot issues of the day: poultry diseases, advances in food animal medicine, food safety and global disease surveillance. Today we are meeting once again and discussing the issues of our day: poultry diseases, advances in food animal medicine, food safety and global disease surveillance.

3,917 veterinarians attended that 1934 meeting in New York City at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, many from the same countries that are joining us today. To each I extend our most sincere welcome, especially to our colleagues from Afghanistan and Iraq. I hope you find this experience to be one of the most memorable of your career.

Well, here we are, 71 years later. And while we may have different languages and customs, different ways of communicating with our clients and treating our patients, we have come together once again precisely because we have more in common than ever before. We are united in our quest for a better world and better medicine for both animals and humans. We are united in our concerns, we are unified in our challenges, and we are unified in the celebration of our achievements. We are what veterinary medicine is all about.

When I told my wife Pat that I was giving this speech, she reminded me of something Muriel Humphrey once told her husband, Hubert, this country's vice president and a favorite son from this great State. She said, "Hubert, a speech does not have to be eternal to be immortal." I will try to remember that.

I come before you today slightly imperfect. As many of you know, I just had a knee replacement.

My recent surgery got me thinking, do any of us truly appreciate our knees? Really appreciate the foundation they provide? I know I did not, not until they both gave out on me. I quickly came to realize, however, that my knees must work together in unity in

order for me to complete the tasks I take for granted. I just assumed they would provide a solid foundation without much attention from me. I was sadly mistaken.

Paying attention to our profession's basic principles is what I would like to talk to you about today. We all assume that our professional unity and our rock solid foundation are perpetual. They are not. Without attention and care, our foundation can slowly begin to erode. That is why I am dedicating my presidency to the care and nurturing of our professional unity—the essential cornerstone of our great profession.

Traditionally, past AVMA presidents have used this time to present you with a roster of very specific recommendations for new programs and initiatives. Many of those recommendations have resulted in impressive and important changes within the AVMA.

But different times call for different approaches. I come before you today with a total commitment to spending my year at the helm of this great organization working to reaffirm our unity.

As president-elect, I have spent much of the past year speaking to a wide variety of veterinary associations and student organizations. In May, when I gave the commencement address at Auburn, I was reminded of my own graduation. I was reminded of my classmates and my professors. Of the long hours and challenges that we faced and survived. I think back to the unity we felt as a class and our coordinated effort to help each other. Doing whatever it took to ensure that each individual met the challenges of the curriculum and graduated.

Unity got us through school and a C+ mean average did not hurt.

And on our graduation day, we became veterinarians. Not equine veterinarians. Not bovine veterinarians. Not small-animal veterinarians. We became veterinarians—members of a select group of professionals that dedicate their lives to ensuring the highest standards in animal and public health.

Why is unity more important today than ever before? Aesop said it better than I ever could: "We often give our enemies the means for our own destruction."

Today our profession is facing challenges, the likes of which we have never seen before. From town hall to Capitol Hill, from the classroom to the laboratory, from the farm to the dinner table, our attention is being pulled in a myriad of directions. In light of those challenges, we must remain focused, we must stay united. While we may practice in different disciplines involving different species of animals, we must be of one vision, one voice. We must maintain the highest standards in medicine and public health, encouraging and assisting others in accomplishing the same. While we may practice in different parts of the world, we must foster unity with our fellow veterinarians from around the globe. Good medicine knows no boundaries, knows no borders. We must cooperate and collaborate with our fellow veterinarians worldwide to make this world a better place for animals and humans alike.

Has there always been perfect unity within the profession? If you look back in the annals of our convention or in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, you will see many instances where we did not all agree. We are a diverse profession, and there are bound to be differences in opinion. But I would argue that the French essayist, Joubert, was right when he said, "the aim of argument, or of discussion, should not be victory, but progress."

Some of the differences our profession is experiencing today may just be a reflection of what is happening to society as a whole.

For example, we have moved away from an agricultural society. In the past 20 years,

many of our colleagues have chosen a metropolitan setting, where they concentrate on companion animals. As a result, the number of food animal graduates has slowed to a trickle. The reality, however, is that food animal practitioners are more important to society than ever before. There is an acute shortage of food animal veterinarians during a time when the world is threatened by zoonotic and foreign animal diseases. At the same time, we are experiencing the same crisis level shortages of public health veterinarians. Most new graduates are not choosing a career in this essential segment of veterinary medicine. The profession must find ways to encourage undergraduates to enter food animal and public health practice.

In an attempt to resolve the critical food animal veterinary shortage, AVMA has been working on a number of strategies and initiatives.

For example, as many of you know, the AVMA helped fund a study to estimate the future demand and availability of food supply veterinarians and to investigate the means for maintaining the required numbers.

AVMA also approved and financially supported the development of benchmarking tools for production animal practitioners by the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues. These benchmarking tools are designed to provide our current practitioners with help in ensuring that their practices are financially successful. That, in turn, will assist in attracting future veterinarians to food animal practice.

The government relations division of the AVMA is diligently working to convince Congress to provide Federal funding for the National Veterinary Medical Service Act. If fully funded, that act could go a long way toward encouraging recent graduates to practice food animal medicine in underserved areas and provide veterinary services to the Federal Government in emergency situations. Just last month, the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee approved \$750,000 for a pilot program. We applaud the efforts of Representatives Pickering and Turner and Senators Cochran and Harkin, all of whom sponsored the original bill, and want to thank the Appropriations Subcommittee, especially Senator Brownback for his kind words and commitment to veterinary medicine.

AVMA is also lobbying our Federal legislators to pass the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act—an important piece of legislation that will provide us with sorely needed public health and public practice veterinarians. Today's public health practitioners play an invaluable role in U.S. agriculture, food safety, zoonotic disease control, animal welfare, homeland security, and international standards and trade. Without an adequate number of public health veterinarians, the wellbeing of our Nation—yes, even the world—is at risk. Senator Allard has been invaluable and unwavering in his dedication to moving this act forward through the complicated legislative process. I intend to do everything I can as president to provide support to Senator Allard's effort to pass the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act.

On the international education level, AVMA has been committed to the global unity of the profession for decades. The AVMA Council on Education has partnered with Canada since the accreditation system was developed and has accredited six foreign veterinary colleges. We are working with six additional schools. We are extremely proud of those colleges. As more inquiries come forward, it is self-evident that the world looks to us as the gold standard in educational goals and expectations.

At the same time, I will be supporting the efforts of our specialty organizations to attract and train the new practitioners they need. Currently, there are 20 veterinary specialty organizations comprising 37 distinct areas of expertise under the AVMA umbrella.

The AVMA economic report on veterinarians and veterinary practices has revealed a substantial difference between the incomes of specialists and nonspecialists practicing in similar disciplines. I will, as president, encourage the development of additional in-depth financial surveys that, hopefully, will motivate our undergraduates to further their education and achieve specialty status, thus helping ensure that public demands for advanced veterinary medical services are being met while, at the same time, increasing our economic base.

Hopefully, these additional specialists will serve as a resource for our veterinary colleges who are becoming increasingly understaffed.

In the past 15 years, we have seen a shift in the demographics of our profession. I will bet there were plenty of raised eyebrows when McKillips College, in 1903, and the Chicago Veterinary College, in 1910, graduated our country's first female veterinarians. It is hard to believe that as recently as 1963, the profession included only 277 female veterinarians.

We are proud of the fact that an increasing number of our graduates are women. Their contributions and leadership have strengthened our profession. However, the recent AVMA-Pfizer study confirmed lower mean female incomes within the profession. Now is the time to explore solutions to that problem, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that this issue is thoroughly investigated and addressed.

To achieve unity, I firmly believe that we must be inclusive, not exclusive. The public has always been well served by the diversity in our practice areas. Now, we must diversify our membership. The AVMA—with more than 72,000 members representing 68 constituent organizations in the House of Delegates—must now seek to represent every race, creed, and color. As a profession, we must mirror the public, and they us. We must become a profession more reflective of the population we serve.

Over 30 years ago, Dr. H.J. Magrane, then president of the AVMA, spoke often and passionately about the need for inclusion and equality in our profession. As a profession, we have still not made the advances in diversity that are necessary.

As the great social scientist, Margaret Mead said: "In diversity . . . we will add to our strength."

In order to achieve our diversity goals, we must initiate both practical and creative ideas to arrive at an enriched membership. It is up to us, all of us, to reach out to young people and to nurture their interests and talents so that we become the shining example of professional diversity. We need to be involved in youth groups, in churches and in our public schools, and united in our quest, so that others say: We must emulate the AVMA.

Once in veterinary school, our students, all our students, need to know that we, as a profession, are there to mentor and to help them through the special challenges they face. None of us got to where we are today without at least one special person—one special veterinarian—who took us under his or her wing and proved to be our own personal cornerstone. We can do no less for those who are striving today to become members of our profession.

In what programs is the AVMA currently involved concerning diversity? First, at its April 2005 meeting, the board approved the

establishment of a task force on diversity. That task force will recommend steps that we must take to meet our goals in diversity.

But here is something you can do in the immediate future. Tomorrow, our convention will offer a full day diversity symposium, including an appearance by Dr. Debbye Turner, veterinarian, former Miss America, and contributor to the CBS Early Show. I hope many of you will plan on spending part of your day attending these important meetings, if time permits.

Diversity will also be an integral part of the 2006 Veterinary Leadership Conference. Each of these opportunities is designed to help us achieve the diversity we have talked about for so long.

So what is on our want list for 2005? As I have mentioned, critical shortages exist in food animal and public health veterinarians. But we also are desperately in need of teachers and researchers. We need policy experts and homeland security professionals. We need legislative leaders, and we need veterinarians who are visionaries and who can lead us in this era of globalization. There exists such critical shortages in so many areas that some days I wonder if our small numbers can, in fact, make a difference.

But then I am asked to speak somewhere. And I look at the enthusiastic faces in my audience—established veterinarians who are deeply involved in their State and local associations, students who live and breathe only to count off the days until they can touch their dream, high school students with straight A's who are anxious to know what else they have to do to make it into veterinary school, third graders with a commitment to animals that rivals the grit and determination of a Jack Russell terrier—and I know that we will not only survive but thrive.

As I have said, my presidency will be dedicated to re-energizing the unity that has always been our strength and foundation. As another President from the Northeast, John F. Kennedy, once said, "Let us not be blind to our differences—but let us also direct attention to our common interests."

Ladies and gentlemen, our common interests are so much greater than our differences. Like the society and world around us, we are changing. And change is never easy. But with your help, and our combined dedication and attention to preserving and protecting our unity of purpose, we will thrive and remain one of the most admired and respected professions in the world.

During the coming year, I will be looking to you for help. I will listen and I will participate. I will follow your lead and I will lead to enlighten. I implore each of you to participate in this great organization and make it your own. For you are the teachers, you are the visionaries, you are veterinary medicine.

CHANGE OF VOTE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on rollcall vote No. 209, regarding the Central American Free Trade Agreement, I be recorded as having voted nay instead of my previous vote in favor of the measure. I understand this change will not affect the outcome of the vote. I thank the majority leader and the Democratic leader.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.