

strong support from the various groups that have spent their lifetime speaking for children.

We will probably have an opportunity to get into some greater detail in discussion of those provisions. As I mentioned briefly in our comments, we have recognized the importance of developing and upgrading the science function in this agency. We think the FDA—at a time we are having breakthroughs in knowledge, in science, in so many areas, we want to make sure the FDA is out there on the cutting edge with respect to these breakthroughs and know where they are going. We have paid particular attention to those as well.

Then the Udall-Reagan Foundation is to try to look longer term at ways in which the agency functions and take a longer look to make recommendations to the private sector and to the public sector about how it can be more effective generally. That kind of idea has not been included in the past. It can very well be enormously valuable and helpful to legislators in the future.

We have tried to get legislation that will provide the protection presently, help and assist breakthrough technologies, and provide a faster track for the American people in the future, but to do it with greater safety protections for all families, and to recognize we are at a time of breakthrough science, which that agency has to have, and there are going to be breakthroughs in different modalities in that agency working in the future. We have tried to build into this an agency that can give us advice so we can be more effective in the future.

I hope we will be able to move ahead. I know we have gone through, in careful detail, the administration's positions over the weekend. We certainly respect those. We have had a good exchange with the administration.

For those who are interested, if they read through the letter they sent to Senator ENZI and myself, and then if they look at the recommendation of the Institute of Medicine, they will find we are much closer to the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine. We may face some amendments in those areas. We look forward to having a good discussion and debate and the opportunity to expand some of the points we have made this evening.

Mr. ENZI. I thank particularly Secretary Leavitt and those people on his staff. We had discussions over the weekend. They had some suggestions for changes. We asked for more detail on those changes. We also asked for them to be prioritized. I was pleased they were delivered within a matter of a very short period of time. That shows people in Government can work together and that they do work on the weekends to get these things done. A lot of people think when we go into recess for a weekend, all work around here stops. But there are dedicated staff who put their best effort into getting together and working together,

sometimes in very tense situations and long hours, mostly through the night—last night. Then they have to draft what has actually been decided. It is a very difficult process. We owe them a great deal of credit. I want the American people to know that, too.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, we have the legislation before us. We hope those who have an interest and have some ideas, have some amendments, will be in touch with Senator ENZI and ourselves through this late afternoon, early evening, or first thing in the morning. We want to try to address those amendments early in the day, as early as we can. We understand both parties have their lunches and have important matters to discuss, and I am sure this will be among them. But we are ready for any of the amendments, as I underline what Senator ENZI has said. We had great participation in our markup with the members of our committee. As he mentioned as well, we have had enormous involvement of our committee members and many others over the period since the legislation was reported out of our committee until now.

We are still in the process of trying to do business because we think this legislation is so important. We hope those who do have amendments will be in touch with us at the earliest possible time.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent we now go into a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CIMARRON-MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my privilege to congratulate the High Rollers team of Cimarron-Memorial High School in Las Vegas. This team recently won a championship victory at the FIRST Robotics Competition at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The FIRST Robotics Competition, otherwise known as the "Superbowl of Smarts," is designed to inspire young people to pursue opportunities in science and technology careers. The competition challenges teams of high school students and their mentors to construct robots over the course of 6 weeks while adhering to competition guidelines and design specifications.

Founded in 1989 through the vision of inventor Dean Kamen, FIRST is a not-for-profit whose acronym means "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." As a result of Mr. Kamen's leadership, FIRST has grown into one of the leading robotics competitions in the entire country. Stu-

dents from more than 1,300 high schools and 23 countries participated in this year's event.

The High Rollers team from Cimarron paired with a coalition of two high school teams from South Windsor, CT, and Worcester, MA, to win the national championship title with a thrilling 59 to 54 victory in the final round. In honor of their victory, the students will meet with President Bush and attend a congressional reception where they will demonstrate their robots and share their achievements with Members of Congress.

The Cimarron team has a long tradition of success that is reflective of their hard work, dedication, and creativity as well as Cimarron-Memorial High School's strong commitment to academic excellence. They were among the top participants at the FIRST Las Vegas Regional held in March on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and were named the Las Vegas regional champions in 2005 and 2006. I know that every Member of the Senate joins me in honoring the extraordinary accomplishments of Cimarron-Memorial High School and its FIRST Robotics National Championship team.

#### HONORING MARGARET BLACKSHERE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Margaret Blackshere, a woman for whom I have great respect and admiration.

Margaret Blackshere has been involved in the labor movement for more than 40 years and remains deeply committed to helping the working families of Illinois. Until February, she served as president of the 1-million-member strong Illinois AFL-CIO, the third-largest state labor body in the country.

Over the years, she has never been afraid to roll up her sleeves and join the picket line or to lead the march.

Margaret always arrived first and left last.

She knows that America's working men and women—those who perform some of the most demanding yet vital tasks in our society—are the real heroes. For her, her service has been a privilege and an opportunity to fight for rights she believes should be guaranteed.

Margaret didn't start out to be a labor leader; she began her career as a kindergarten teacher in Madison, IL. She became involved in the labor movement almost by accident, after she and her fellow teachers were repeatedly passed over for raises they had earned. In response, she and her colleagues mobilized to pass a referendum that would raise their wages. It wasn't just about the money. It was about having a voice.

This early effort led to a job with the local Illinois Federation of Teachers affiliate in Madison. Through hard work, Margaret rose to become statewide vice president of the IFT.

In 1993, she was elected secretary-treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO. At the time, there were only a handful of female officers in State labor federations, and Margaret stood out as the only female officer from an industrialized State. In 2000, she was elected president of the Illinois AFL-CIO—the first woman to serve as president in the State federation's 102-year history.

Under Margaret Blackshire's leadership, the Illinois AFL-CIO helped lead the fight to raise Illinois' minimum wage—not once but twice.

Margaret also led passionate efforts to guarantee women equal pay for equal work, to expand health care, and to improve Illinois' workers' compensation system.

She has a gift for uniting people from diverse backgrounds, with very different viewpoints, under a common goal. This is no easy task, and one that many politicians regularly attempt but often fail.

Margaret recognized the importance of forming an alliance with the Illinois Manufacturers Association and helped to save and create Illinois manufacturing jobs.

She also helped to establish the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, which included groups as diverse as the Illinois Automobile Asphalt and Pavement Association and the Chicago Transit Authority, to speak with a unified voice for Illinois' transportation funding needs.

As Margaret fought for Illinois' working families, she raised her own family and has two sons and four grandchildren.

She also devotes a great deal of time to charitable organizations. She has served on the boards of a wide variety of institutions, including the Illinois branches of United Way and American Red Cross, Alliance for Retired Americans, Voices for Illinois Children, Unemployment Insurance Advisory Board, and the Federal Reserve Board of Chicago. She also is a board member of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership, which helps prepare women with progressive values run for political office.

Over the years, Margaret has received many accolades and awards. In 2000, the Labor Council for Latin Advancement honored her with the Labor Leader Award, and the State of Israel presented her with the Israel Peace Medal. Margaret also received the Protector of Working People Award in 2002 from the Illinois State Crime Commission. Always proud of her Irish heritage, Margaret was delighted to be the Guest of Honor for Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2003.

Margaret says that she doesn't really intend to retire—she will still be fighting the same fights but will do so as a volunteer. She believes her future efforts will involve reaching out to workers in countries across the globe.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Margaret Blackshire on her retirement and thank her for her ef-

forts to protect working families in Illinois and across the country. I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### RECOGNITION OF WES WILKINS

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Wes Wilkins, of Middleton, DE, who will on May 2, 2007, receive the Dr. Gary Burch Memorial Award, given annually to the railroad worker who has done the most to improve the safety of railroad passengers. For more than 30 years, Wes has worked on our Nation's railroads. As one of Amtrak's most talented and innovative maintenance of way employees, he helped design the Switch Exchange System and provided input on every operational procedure involved with this new system of switching. The result of his talent helped to ensure reliable and safe train travel on virtually every mile of track between here and Boston, as well as across the Nation. Wes also formed the Production and Construction Safety Committee, whose purpose is to help ensure safe practices throughout Amtrak's Production Unit, which oversees installations. He is known for his countless hours of double- and triple-checking, of traveling to trouble spots, and of helping teach others about safety. His ability to operate almost every piece of maintenance equipment Amtrak uses and his success in instilling safety in the minds of his coworkers make him quite worthy of this award. As someone who rides Amtrak to work, I can testify to the importance rail transportation plays in providing affordable, reliable, safe transportation and I feel safer knowing someone like Wes is working on the front lines. Delaware is home to two of Amtrak's most important maintenance shops, and I congratulate all of the Amtrak employees of Delaware who helped Wes earn this award. Wes should be proud of all he has done to make this possible and I wish him the best as he continues a distinguished career of public service.●

### CELEBRATING PURDUE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' CENTENNIAL

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join my fellow Hoosiers in commemorating Purdue University Libraries' centennial as a Federal Depository Library. Since 1907, the staff of the Purdue University Libraries has worked diligently to provide Hoosiers with access to contemporary and historical information about our Nation and the workings of our Federal Government.

I am hopeful that this signal milestone will serve as a reminder to all Hoosiers of the remarkable resources available at the Purdue University Libraries through the Federal Depository Loan Program. As the Federal Depository

Loan Program makes these resources available free of charge, I would encourage Hoosiers to utilize them as they learn and work together.

I am grateful for the important service of the staff at the Purdue University Libraries, and I wish them congratulations on this auspicious occasion.●

### HELEN ROBSON WALTON

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I today I honor the late Helen Robson Walton. Helen touched countless lives within her community, across Arkansas and throughout the world.

Born on December 3, 1919, in Claremore, OK, Helen graduated college in 1941 with a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Oklahoma School of Business. Two years later she married Sam Walton and they formed a lasting relationship of love, friendship and as business partners. Helen and Sam Walton opened their first retail store, a Ben Franklin "five and dime" in Newport, AR, in 1945.

The daughter of a successful lawyer, banker and rancher, Helen had a natural instinct for good management and played an active role in the family business. She firmly believed in the concept of family partnerships and insisted that their four children—Rob, John, Jim and Alice—were partners of Walton Enterprises. At the time, they were all under the age of 10.

Helen was also admired for her graceful, down-to-earth demeanor. She was active in the First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville and the first woman ever elected to vice chairwoman of the board of trustees for the Presbyterian Church, USA, Foundation.

As a natural leader who recognized the importance of putting others before self, Helen devoted a large portion of her time to the Walton Family Foundation. Under her leadership, the foundation has given generously to numerous Arkansas organizations, including the University of Arkansas, the Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville and Crystal Bridges. Her commitment to education has also touched hundreds of lives in Central America. Since 1985, she personally supervised a \$3.6 million scholarship program for Central American students to study at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, University of the Ozarks and Harding University in Searcy. Knowing the vast majority of these students would return home, Helen wanted to provide them with higher educational opportunities so they could later contribute to the well-being and economic development of their local communities.

Her generosity of time, energy and goodwill towards others is an example we all can follow. I join Arkansans in offering my prayers and condolences for the Robson and Walton families during this difficult time.●