

It is incredible to believe. It is simply unacceptable for the greatest democracy in the world to stifle the findings of scientists for political and ideological reasons. It is common sense to listen to the best scientists in the world and to act on their research. And their research is telling us that global warming is getting worse and it is time for us to act.

It is disappointing beyond words that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are preventing us from moving forward with this bill. In this place—the Senate—and at this time, some Members of the Senate are putting special interests and politics ahead of the safety and well-being of our people. We have to act now, and this bill is the right place to start. We dare not let this time pass without action.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

THANKING THE SENATE PAGES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today is the last day of service for our current page class. On behalf of all Senators, I thank them for the job they do every day for us—running these documents all over the Capitol, rushing around here to make sure amendments are filed appropriately and, for me, often filing cloture motions. They do a lot. The glass of water I have here, as for every Senator, they know whether they want sparkling water, water with ice, cold water, warm water.

These are wonderful, intelligent young men and women. It would have been a wonderful experience to be a page when I was a boy. I hope my vision of the time they have had is appropriate in that they really do have the time I think they are having.

They have seen this body, the greatest deliberative body in the history of the world, debate some very difficult issues. They have seen us succeed at times, maybe not succeed at other times. But I hope they always believe we approach our job with sincerity, of having different views but always striving to make our country stronger.

It is lost on no one that more than a few of our Senators who have served here and served in the House have been pages. Chris Dodd from Connecticut was a Senate page. I talked to him about it today. That was the beginning of his career.

Mr. President, I have in my office right across the hall pictures of my two first grandchildren—two beautiful little girls, little babies. They could not sit up. They were so small, they were propped up against something. One of them was born in September and the other was born in November. Ryan and Mattie—beautiful little babies. But I have in front of that picture a picture of my two oldest grandchildren in their Senate page uniforms. They were Senate pages. Being Senate pages changed their lives, and I am not exaggerating. It was a wonderful experience for my two grandchildren.

I hope the experience for every one of these pages is half as good as for my granddaughters. When I say it changed their lives, I am not joking. Take Ryan as an example. She did not read newspapers. She was not really interested in what was going on in Government. But she now is. She reads, watches the news, and sees people come through the Senate whom she used to work with.

It does not hurt my feelings—and it should not hurt the other 98 Senators—to accept the proposition that their favorite Senator is ROBERT BYRD. Now, ROBERT BYRD is frail and not as strong and vigorous as he was when I first came to the Senate. But the pages, when my granddaughters were here, voted for which Senator they liked most, and it was ROBERT BYRD.

Well, I am confident that as a result of these young men and women being here, they will have a new enthusiasm for public service. I know the Presiding Officer and I believe in government. Government is good. When people are in trouble, where can you go for help? Mr. President, 9/11 said you can look to your God, whoever that might be, you can look to your family, and you can look to government. There are very few places to go other than that. And for government, we need good people, in appointive office and in elective office. I do not think there is a higher calling than public service. I personally feel so fortunate every day to be a public servant. Do we make all the money that people can make on the outside? No. But we make enough money. We make plenty of money. So I hope these young men and women find ways, big and small, to serve and honor the country that we love and they love.

I have the honor in the morning of being able to speak at the pages' graduation. I look forward to doing that. I am going to do that at 10 o'clock in the morning.

But, Mr. President, for today, I wish to enter the names of all of this semester's pages in the RECORD in honor of their service. The first two names I read off tonight are a couple Nevadans: Danae Moser, Sparks, NV; Andrew Solomon, Gardnerville, NV. Alyssa Abraham, Franklin, TN; Brittany Ashenfelter, Redfield, IA; Joanna Beletic, Arlington, VA; Genny Beltrone, Great Falls, MT; Andrew Carter, Madison, WI; Christopher Cary, Parkville, MO; Phoebe Chaffin-Busby, Little Rock, AR; Allie Dopp, Bountiful, UT; Ronson Fox, Waipahu, HI; Jennifer Goebel, Plano, TX; Adrienne Gosselin, Nashua, NH; Mary Margaret Johnson, Madison, MS; Taylor Johnson, Orrington, ME; Jocelynn Knudsen, Missoula, MT; Olivia Konig, Great Falls, VA; James Lee, Fairfax, VA; Ashley Lewis, Canton, MI; Mark Loose, Anderson, IN; Joshua Moscow, Lexington, KY; Danae Moser—again, I repeat in alphabetical order—Sparks, NV; Hamid Nasir, Anchorage, AK; Evan Nichols, Eaton Rapids, MI; Cody O'Hara, Florence, KY; Reed Phillips, Alexander City, AL; Augusta Rodgers, Winona,

MN; Sarah Rosenberg, Chicago, IL; Brandon Skyles, Buckley, WA; Andrew Solomon—I repeat—Gardnerville, NV; Jacob Waalk, Monroe, LA; Ryan Wingate, Montpelier, VT.

I look forward to seeing these fine young men and women at 10 o'clock in the morning, Mr. President.

REMEMBERING SENATOR VANCE HARTKE

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, it is a privilege today to submit to the RECORD an essay by Jan Hartke, my friend and the son of our late colleague, Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana.

William Butler Yeats famously wrote: "my glory was I had such friends." To know Vance Hartke as a cherished friend, as an ally to all who are not just unashamed but actually proud to seek peace, as a fellow Navy man, and particularly as a mentor, protector, and champion for those of us who returned from Vietnam to oppose the war—really, that was all the glory or honor any of us ever really need or deserve.

Vance's passing hit me like a punch to the gut; I was driving in New Hampshire in July of that long hot summer of 2003, in the middle of a Presidential campaign, when the jarring news came to me—and brought back memories of my earliest years as an antiwar activist, and of a public servant who shared our cause and our concerns. Then and throughout his life, Vance was compelling in the absolute sincerity of his character. He was spurred to soul-searching by America's disastrous intervention in Vietnam. He found himself asking, as many now ask of Iraq, not just "How do we end this war?" but "How do we learn from our mistakes and end the mindset that got us into war?"

It was a profound moral compass that led Senator Hartke to work with Senators Mark Hatfield, Jennings Randolph, Sam Nunn, and Spark Matsunaga on legislation to found the U.S. Institute of Peace, whose continued work studying conflict and building understanding has become a testament to the nobility of Vance's aspirations and the life he lived in support of them.

With the groundbreaking of a beautiful new building, the organization built to house Senator Hartke's ideas finally has a home worthy of its founder.

Here, for the Senate RECORD, is a powerful essay—which captures Vance's vision as only his son could—in honor of this historic event.

I ask unanimous consent to have the essay to which I referred printed in the RECORD.

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

NEW PEACE BUILDING ON NATION'S MALL

A new building dedicated to international peace will begin to rise in Washington, D.C. between the Lincoln Memorial and the Kennedy Center at the northwest corner of the

National Mall during a groundbreaking ceremony on June 5, 2008. President Bush and Speaker Pelosi will offer remarks.

The building will house the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), with its headquarters and public education center, an idea whose roots can be traced back to President George Washington and the framers of the U.S. Constitution.

The building will not be a monument to an individual or commemorate a significant event in our nation's history. Rather, it will be a place where the hard work of peace goes on, where globally recognized experts on conflict resolution will seek ways to prevent accidental and unnecessary wars, limit their scope and severity, and identify and facilitate exit strategies. The USIP building will symbolize America's most cherished ideal—enduring peace on earth.

The design of this historic building by world-renowned architect, Moshe Safdie, is in perfect harmony with its noble purpose. From its imaginative white roof shaped like the wings of a dove, to its open and transparent glass atrium, the USIP building seems infused with the hope and promise and work of peace.

The idea for the USIP arose during the Vietnam War, when Senator Vance Hartke tried to make the case to his friend, President Johnson, that the war was a terrible mistake, based on a misinterpretation of history, culture, and geopolitics. Unfortunately, President Johnson interpreted his dissent as disloyalty to him and his Administration. Nor did the other institutions make the case for peace. Even the State Department was for war.

At that point, Senator Hartke realized that something was missing from the Nation's decision-making apparatus on the great issues of war and peace. He saw the need for a non-partisan entity with analytical depth and institutional heft whose sole mandate was to advance the cause of peace. Joined by Senator Mark Hatfield, they introduced legislation that laid the cornerstone for the eventual creation of the USIP.

The legislation was moved forward through a commission headed by Senator Spark Matsunaga, whose members were appointed by President Carter. Public hearings were held across the country. The upshot was that experts from a wide variety of fields were offended by the notion that the search for peace was wishful thinking and futile. With a sweeping charter, the bi-partisan legislation was passed and signed into law by President Reagan in 1984.

"The somewhat radical notion underlying USIP's creation," Corine Hegland wrote in a perceptive article in the *National Journal*, "was that the science of peace could be studied, refined, and taught in much the same manner as military skills and strategies had been consciously honed for centuries."

"We got it wrong after 9/11," as USIP's Executive Vice-President Patricia Thomson sees it. "We restructured our homeland-security institutions, but we should have restructured our foreign-policy institutions." The current work of the USIP still encompasses basic research but increasingly its storehouse of best peace practices has been used and applied in countries around the world, wherever hot spots flare. USIP's Chairman, Robinson West, and President, Richard Solomon, have mobilized their staff of 142 employees to rethink conflicts with a bold view toward preventing and ending them.

The body of work of USIP shows an evolving institution whose basic values lie at the heart of civilization, whether it is recruiting statesmen like Lee Hamilton and James Baker III to lead the Iraq Study Group, or the efforts to implement the Dayton Peace Accords led by former Chairman Chester Crocker.

Forty years after he envisioned the creation of USIP, Senator Hartke's challenging and prophetic words still ring true: "I have the unshakable conviction that we have it within our power to end this war (Vietnam) and the syndrome of war itself. . . . For in the end, it is the dreamer who is the greatest realist."

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FUNDING

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I had the fortunate opportunity to travel to Africa and South America over the Easter recess, and I want to take a moment to share some of my observations with my colleagues.

Mali receives significant U.S. foreign assistance totaling \$45 million in fiscal year 2007, \$55 million in fiscal year 2008—and \$461 million in Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC, funding.

While Mali appears headed in the right direction, I worry that the MCC is going down the wrong path, specifically by funding a \$90 million renovation project for Bamako airport's runway and terminal. I understand that this project may have been formulated through a consultative process, but it seems to me that it should be funded through the African Development Bank or by private investment. I expect the MCC to justify to the State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee the necessity for U.S. taxpayers to fund the airport project, and to consult on the reprogramming of funds required by the derailed \$90 million industrial park project.

The funding disparity and contrast between our traditional development agency—the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID—and the MCC was glaring in Mali. Where USAID—could benefit from a slight increase in overall funding, the MCC was struggling to determine how best to reprogram \$90 million. I am very concerned that MCC may not live up to its billing as a more effective aid delivery program, and its deep pockets may create unintended opportunities for corruption.

I had the opportunity to visit the U.S. Embassy and learned of the loss of air conditioning for a lengthy period of time which was a burden to American and local staff. This is not the first time I've heard of problems at our newly built embassies, and I encourage the State Department to make sure that no patterns exist at these facilities because of subpar contractors or equipment.

Like Mali, Nigeria receives significant U.S. assistance primarily through a new initiative, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR. Assistance in fiscal year 2007 totaled \$350 million and \$491 million in fiscal year 2008, of which \$282 million and \$410 million are for HIV/AIDS activities, respectively.

On paper, Nigeria is wealthy country with significant oil reserves, and, we were told, an estimated \$57 billion in an excess crude account. Corruption is

unfortunately a cancer that stymies development and political progress in that country; Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, 2007, ranks Nigeria 147th out of 179th.

Nigeria is a PEPFAR focus country, with a 3.9 percent prevalence rate among adults. Given Nigeria's significant natural resources, it is imperative that the AIDS Coordinator begin a process of transitioning from U.S. to Nigeria-funded programs. America can help the Government of Nigeria spend its health dollars, but I question the efficacy of U.S. funding for HIV/AIDS programs in that country. I will have more to say on this issue when the Senate considers the reauthorization of PEPFAR, perhaps later this year.

Namibia is also a PEPFAR focus country, and received \$86.9 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$103 million in fiscal year 2008 for HIV/AIDS programs. Unfortunately, other programs for Namibia, specifically support for democracy activities, has been in steady decline over the past few fiscal years and is being zeroed out. Given that the ruling SWAPO party is no longer a monolith, and splinter parties are forming, the Administration's reduction in assistance to Namibia may be ill timed and ill advised.

My staff and I are exploring ways to ensure that sufficient funding exists for non-HIV/AIDS programs for Namibia, including immediate support for domestic election monitoring activities in that country, and like Nigeria, I encourage PEPFAR personnel to explore sustainment strategies for U.S.-funded HIV/AIDS programs.

I am also concerned that the United States is not supporting enough exchange programs with countries in Africa. I intend to increase these programs in upcoming appropriations bills.

South Africa is also a PEPFAR focus country and received \$398 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$547 million in fiscal year 2008 HIV/AIDS funding. South Africa is running a budget surplus—in this case totaling \$2.4 billion.

I am very pleased that our U.S. Ambassador understands the need for South Africa to assume greater financial responsibility for HIV/AIDS programs, and it is unfortunate that certain South Africa government officials have not been aggressive in addressing this issue. Any future support for HIV/AIDS programs in South Africa should be conditioned on the development and implementation of sustainment strategies to ensure that the Government of South Africa assume the care for its infected populations.

Crime remains a significant challenge to everyone in South Africa, and given the increased personnel requirements associated with PEPFAR, it may make sense to allow the use of PEPFAR funds for administrative and operational expenses at the U.S. Embassy, including for security purposes. New initiatives create increased desk