

Then we matched that with appropriations funds from an appropriations subcommittee that I chair to make sure they had enough money to hire testers and buy equipment and to make certain they could take a look at products before they arrived in the warehouses of America and on the store shelves to make certain they were safe before they came in.

It went along very slowly, when it should have gone quickly because the right leadership was not at the agency. When President Obama was sworn in, one of my first calls was to urge him to fill the slots at the Consumer Product Safety Commission with true consumer advocates. Our passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act—which President Bush had signed into law—by an overwhelming vote of 89 to 3 in the Senate was an indication this was a bipartisan issue, as it should have been. That law virtually eliminated lead from toys and children's products, made sure the products met national standards, authorized a doubling of the Consumer Product Safety Commission budget, and strengthened the Commission's ability to protect Americans.

Yesterday, President Obama's announcement of these two vacancies being filled builds on that effort to make sure the Commission has the right leadership in place to implement a law in a comprehensive, yet common-sense, manner.

Inez Tenenbaum is someone I know. She is a long-time advocate for children and families. She was the former superintendent of education in South Carolina. She oversaw an agency larger than the Consumer Product Safety Commission in both budget and staff, and under her tenure student achievement in that State improved the fastest in the Nation.

Robert Adler, consumer advocate and expert on the Consumer Product Safety Commission, was a professor at the University of North Carolina, where he worked extensively on consumer protection and product liability. He has also served as an attorney and advisor to previous CPSC Commissioners. I strongly support President Obama's nominees. I am glad he is going to bring about a new day at this agency. It is long overdue. Millions of Americans, millions of families and kids are counting on this agency to make sure that when products make the shelves in America, they are safe for American consumers.

#### AMERICA'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Earlier this year, President Obama announced a new policy for Afghanistan and Pakistan beginning to really focus important resources and attention on those countries—resources that were, tragically, diverted during the war in Iraq.

I was honored today to be invited for a lunch with President Zardari of Paki-

stan and President Karzai of Afghanistan. They are now working together—and that was not always the case—to stop the spread of the Taliban and al-Qaida. They are starting to do things which I think should have been done a long time ago. For example, I was surprised to learn when I visited Afghanistan a little over a year ago that we had fewer than 10 agricultural experts in that country. We know that country, which was once a prolific exporter of agricultural products, has now descended to a point where the major export is poppy and heroin, which, of course, fuels the underground economy and fuels the Taliban in their efforts to bring terrorism to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Well, to learn that we have fewer than 10 agricultural experts working on the ground in Afghanistan to try to change this was disappointing. This administration, the new Obama administration, has made a commitment to raise that number to over 50 in a hurry, as they should, so that we will be able to counsel those in agriculture in Afghanistan about lucrative, profitable crops that will not be feeding terrorism. That is one of the things that needs to be done, not just the military side but the economic side as well.

We understand—and Secretary Clinton has said such—that if we are going to be successful in Afghanistan and Pakistan, we have to bring this effort down to ground level, not just to suppress the violence but to make certain we build a civil economy and a civil government that can sustain democratic and free growth in those two countries. I was glad to be part of that effort today. I believe there is a lot more to do. I join with Senators KIT BOND of Missouri, PATTY MURRAY of Washington, and CHRIS DODD of Connecticut, as well as SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island, in introducing a bill that is called the Increasing America's Global Development Capacity Act, to improve our Nation's capacity to undertake global development activities.

The bill would triple the number of USAID Foreign Service officers by 2012. If we implement this legislation, in 3 years USAID will have 3,000 talented, committed Americans serving in the world's most difficult locations, helping to improve the lives of others, and showing the world what America is all about. I would much rather beef up the USAID than run the risk of sending more American soldiers to face the dangers of war in those foreign countries. I think we can help win over the hearts and minds of people around the world if we have the right American ambassador in a civilian capacity using diplomacy and development as major tools.

The President's strategy wisely emphasizes training the Afghan army and building up the police; a renewed effort to deal with the Taliban's safe havens in Pakistan; and a long overdue civilian surge in State Department and U.S.

Agency for International Development personnel, with particular emphases on diplomacy, agriculture, good governance, and job creation.

It is unfortunate that more than 7 years after the war in Afghanistan began we are only now providing sufficient civilian resources and experts to help win the peace in Afghanistan.

The Bush administration neglected to focus on post-war needs in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Once our brave military men and women accomplished their early military goals, few if any plans existed for significant investments in strengthening critical economic, governance, and rule of law institutions.

The results have been sadly obvious. Our military has had to stay longer than anticipated while we play catch up on these basic building blocks that are needed for any true long-term stability.

This failure to invest in and deploy our civilian experts has placed an unfair burden on our military and their families.

Our military leaders have recognized the critical nature of the civilian development and diplomatic component of American engagement abroad.

Secretary of Defense Gates has said it clearly:

What is clear to me is that there is a need for a dramatic increase in spending on the civilian instruments of national security—diplomacy, strategic communications, foreign assistance, civic action, and economic reconstruction and development.

He continued;

One of the most important lessons of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is that military success is not sufficient to win: economic development, institution-building and the rule of law, promoting internal reconciliation, good governance, providing basic services to the people, training and equipping indigenous military and police forces, strategic communications, and more—these, along with security, are essential ingredients for long-term success.

Secretary Clinton has similarly said:

In order for us to pursue an ambitious foreign policy to both solve and manage problems, to address our interests and advance our values, we have to reform both State and USAID. And to do so, we have to create a Department and an agency that are funded the right way, where the people doing this work have the tools and authorities that they need. This is particularly important in dangerous regions like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our Nation's ability to help others improve their lives is a critical component of American foreign policy. Development initiatives help stem HIV/AIDS and other global pandemics; provide food, clean water, and sanitation to the world's poor; strengthen democratic processes and institutions; and foster economic growth.

These efforts demonstrate our leadership and concern, foster goodwill and an appreciation of American values, and provide alternatives to the despair that can lead others to turn against us.

That is why a recent story in the New York Times about Afghanistan is so tragic. The article's title "G.I.'s

Filling Civilian Gap to Rebuild Afghanistan" says it all.

We now have a President who has formed a sound policy for Afghanistan, but we simply do not have the civilian international development experts necessary to fill the civilian needs in Afghanistan.

This is tragic.

Think about after the attacks of September 11 how many Americans wanted to serve their country, whether in the military, in Americorps programs, or in the Foreign Service.

We should have taken advantage of that groundswell of American idealism and determination to bring some of our brightest minds into the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development where they could use their talents and desire for public service to make a difference in the lives of others around the world and to help bring stability to faraway places.

The need is stark. Take USAID alone. In the 1960s when President Kennedy launched the agency, it had more than 5,000 Foreign Service officers. Today, with obvious needs around the world from Afghanistan to Iraq to Congo, it has just over 1,000.

Its budget in real dollars has shrunk by almost one quarter.

That is right. At a time when people on both sides of the aisle, as well as in the military and civilian leadership of our government, agree on the great need for such civilian engagement, our lead international development agency has seen its key staff cut by 80 percent and its funding by more than 25 percent.

We have this all backwards.

This increase in development professionals would be a first step towards rebalancing the three pillars of our foreign policy and national security—development, defense, and diplomacy, and would go a long way in helping face some of our country's biggest global challenges.

I urge support for this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

#### NUCLEAR ENERGY

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to discuss the benefits of nuclear power to our Nation.

Last week, I was fortunate enough to visit the Savannah River Site, along with three of our colleagues, Senator ISAKSON and our two South Carolina colleagues, Senator GRAHAM and Senator DEMINT, to watch the Department of Energy employees at the Savannah River Site carry out their mission.

This site has been safely operating since the 1950s refining materials for nuclear weapons. In more than fifty years, there has not been a single nuclear incident at the Savannah River Site, proving that it is possible to safely operate and maintain our nuclear facilities. But in the past decade, the place that has helped bolster America's

standing in the atomic age and has been a watchword for America's nuclear might has also begun to harness spent forces for peaceful purposes—to bring light and heat into American homes.

The Savannah River Site has helped lead the way in disposing of nuclear material. For more than 6 years, the facility has blended weapons-grade, highly enriched uranium to make low-enriched uranium that is being converted into commercial reactor fuel. It recently expanded its mission to include converting excess weapons-grade plutonium from decommissioned nuclear weapons and will become a consolidation point for all weapons-grade plutonium in the United States. This will result in more fuel for commercial power reactors.

Materials that once tipped our arsenal of nuclear warheads are now being used to provide the light by which Georgians eat dinner, do their homework, and the power with which they heat their homes in winter and cool them in our hot summers. In fact, one-fifth of Georgia's total generating capacity comes from nuclear power—second only to coal.

The two nuclear plants in Georgia provide some of the lowest cost electricity in our State. The power they generate is safe, reliable, and, most significant in the midst of this national debate on climate change—emissions free and environmentally responsible.

Despite those clear advantages, in America at large, nuclear power produces some 20 percent of the Nation's energy. Compare that to France, where nuclear power sources provide nearly 80 percent of that country's power.

Intriguingly, in terms of national security, the Savannah River Site is playing a key role in America's nuclear nonproliferation efforts. The nuclear power generated from reducing our nuclear weapons stockpile at the Savannah River Site is coming full circle: In its conversion from weapons to commercial nuclear fuel, it is helping reduce America's dependence on foreign energy sources, often from countries that do not like us and do not have our best interests at heart.

Additionally, the work conducted at the Savannah River Site helps maintain America's technical and scientific nuclear base, preserving the expertise to expand commercial nuclear energy as well as the expertise to modernize our existing nuclear weapons arsenal.

I was impressed by the talent and expertise of Savannah River Site employees I met who are some of the leading nuclear experts in the world. However, they are an endangered breed and will continue to be unless America commits to expanded nuclear energy and research and development.

We know America's energy consumption will increase. We know the increased demand will drive the need for more base-load capacity. Demographers predict that 40 percent of the total U.S. population will live in the

Southeast by 2030. Georgia alone is slated to add 4 million new residents during that time frame. If we are to meet the growing energy needs of Georgia and of our Nation in keeping with America's national security interests, the ingenuity of employees at the Savannah River Site and other such facilities is key to such efforts. I applaud their great work. I look forward to many more years of expansion of the technology that is being developed to dispose of our nuclear waste as well as recycle our nuclear waste and to reuse that waste.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, due to an official event in New Jersey, I was necessarily absent for rollcall votes 186 and 187. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 186, passage of S. 454, the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, I would have voted yea; rollcall No. 187, the confirmation of R. Gil Kerlikowske to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, I would have voted yea.●

#### RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CLYDE A. VAUGHN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, this week, LTG Clyde Vaughn, Director of the Army National Guard, retires after almost 35 years of excellent service to the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army. He has been an absolutely superb Army Guard Director.

Under General Vaughn's watch, the Guard has undertaken one of the most successful recruiting programs in history. The Army Guard has become more capable, ready, and better equipped than at any point over the past several decades. Under his watch, the Army Guard has helped make the country stronger. General Vaughn leaves big shoes to fill.

The Army National Guard is a critically important part of the Army and the entire Armed Forces. Citizen-soldiers from the Army National Guard have comprised a high percentage of the forces on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. The members of the Army Guard also are our military first responders for emergencies at home, ready to quickly support our elected leaders and other civilian authorities in such emergencies as flooding and hurricanes. General Vaughn has brought an acute understanding of the Army National Guard, built from his experiences in the Missouri National Guard and from successful joint assignments in Washington and further afield.

During his time as Army Guard Director, the National Guard has racked up some extraordinary accomplishments. Soldiers—the proud citizen-soldiers from all the States and Territories—and families have remained