

IMPLEMENTING BUDGETARY SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, during this time of budget constraints, sequestration, and continuing resolutions, it is crucial that every Federal department and agency identify maximum cost savings and improve efficiencies to minimize the impact of reductions on critical programs and personnel. It is also the responsibility of Congress to encourage departments and agencies to consistently identify and implement such savings and efficiencies.

We do not have the luxury of allowing the continuation of programs that are no longer relevant, are redundant with other Federal programs, can be done more cheaply, or that perpetuate past mistakes. Unfortunately it seems that the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development are not able to identify some potential savings. It takes outside watchdogs such as the inspectors general and the Government Accountability Office to review and independently evaluate department or agency programs and operations.

As chairman of the appropriations subcommittee that funds the State Department and USAID, I and ranking member LINDSEY GRAHAM have taken steps to avoid wasteful and unnecessary spending. We have reduced costs based on inspector general findings, directed the State Department to eliminate unnecessary overseas support staff and administrative expenses, and directed the Department and USAID to improve financial and contract management. We will continue to look for opportunities to reduce waste, terminate programs that are poorly designed or not meeting their goals, and save taxpayer dollars.

But this is not enough. The State Department, USAID, and other Federal agencies need to act proactively to identify efficiencies and reduce costs. Unfortunately, some of the inspector generals' findings are so obvious it is surprising, and troubling, that the State Department or USAID did not identify the savings on their own.

Here are just a few examples from fiscal year 2013 reports of the State Department and USAID inspectors general.

The State Department inspector general found that the Department has a team based in Frankfurt, Germany, that travels to posts in the former Yugoslavia and the countries of the former Soviet Union to train local staff and provide administrative support to posts. This might have made sense in the early 1990s, but it makes no sense 24 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

The inspector general determined that 80 percent of the Regional Information Management Center staff in Frankfurt does not need to be assigned overseas. Their work could be done in Washington, saving millions of dollars each year. According to the inspector

general, an employee assigned overseas costs \$232,000 more each year than an employee based in the United States.

In Iraq, at one of our most oversized and expensive Embassies, the inspector general found that the Department hired and paid for 513 Baghdad security personnel when only 253 were actually used. The Department also paid \$20.6 million for an unnecessary airport security program that added 84 personnel.

The inspector general found that the Department had 955 expired grants with a total of \$81.9 million in unspent funds. The inspector general also found that the Department had not closed out 1,421 expired grants each with a \$0 balance, costing \$97,069 each year in unnecessary administrative fees.

The USAID inspector general found that USAID added five overseas food storage warehouses but had not determined whether delivery times of food prepositioned overseas justifies the additional cost when compared with prepositioning food domestically. In fact, a cost-benefit analysis conducted in response to a 2007 Government Accountability Office recommendation found that food prepositioned overseas is seven times more costly than food prepositioned domestically and recommended that USAID consider increasing the amount of domestic prepositioned food. USAID has now agreed to compare the timeliness and cost of prepositioning food overseas versus domestically. We cannot afford to make decisions that expand programs or increase costs without some evidence that there is a benefit worth the additional expense.

The USAID inspector general found that in a 3-month period, September through November 2012, USAID paid \$64,000 for more than 300 mobile devices that had not been used for at least 1 month during that time period and \$48,000 for 267 devices that had not been used at all during those 3 months, and an average of 127 employees had excessive user charges of \$118,000 which USAID could not verify had been reviewed and accepted. While these are relatively small amounts, they add up.

And the list goes on.

I know that the employees of the State Department and USAID are dedicated, hard-working people. Most Americans have little if any idea of what they do to protect the interests of the United States around the world. But it is because their work is so important that we cannot afford to waste the money they need to do their jobs. Top officials at the State Department and USAID must identify and eliminate outdated, redundant, and ineffective programs and unnecessary operating expenses. We cannot wait for the inspectors general to do their job for them.

CRIMINAL ANTITRUST ANTI-RETALIATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am pleased that the Senate passed yester-

day bipartisan legislation that will improve the enforcement of the antitrust laws. The bipartisan Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act extends whistleblower protections to employees who report criminal violations of the antitrust laws. These kinds of violations, which include price fixing, have a particularly pernicious impact on consumers.

This legislation represents a continuation of my partnership with Senator GRASSLEY on whistleblower issues. Senator GRASSLEY has long been an advocate for protecting those who blow the whistle on wasteful or criminal conduct. Our bill is modeled on whistleblower protections that he and I authored as part of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. The Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act does not provide employees with an economic incentive to report violations. The legislation simply makes whole employees who have been fired or discriminated against for blowing the whistle on criminal conduct.

Whistleblower protection was recommended by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, in a 2011 report to Congress. The GAO surveyed an array of stakeholders and found widespread support for the kind of basic protections contained in this legislation. The bill allows employees who have reported a criminal violation to file an action with the Department of Labor if they have been fired or otherwise discriminated against for disclosing the violation. While the remedies provided by the bill are limited, they are crucial in protecting employees from retaliation.

The antitrust laws exist to promote a free and open marketplace and serve to protect consumers. These laws can only be effective if they are vigorously enforced. The Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act will aid in enforcement efforts and ensure that consumers are protected from harmful activity. I urge the House to act quickly to pass this important bill.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to remember those who perished and suffered during Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, 75 years ago on November 9 and 10 in Germany, German-occupied Austria, and German-occupied Czechoslovakia.

Earlier that year, in March 1938, Germany absorbed Austria—the so-called Anschluss. Then, at the September 1938 Munich conference, France, Britain, and Italy allowed Germany to annex the western rim of Czechoslovakia and to claim its 3 million Sudeten Germans as its own. In both acts, the concept of loyalty to the state was equated with ethnic identity.

Then, in October 1938, Germany expelled 17,000 Jews with Polish citizenship from Germany into Poland. These families were arrested at night, transported by train to the Polish border,

and effectively left in limbo, as Poland initially refused to accept them. The son of two of these expellees, a Polish Jew in France, took revenge: He assassinated a German diplomat in Paris.

Propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels subsequently asserted that "World Jewry" was responsible for the assassination and gave the signal for the start of the first large open pogrom in Germany: "The Führer," he stated, "has decided that . . . demonstrations should not be prepared or organized by the Party, but insofar as they erupt spontaneously, they are not to be hampered."

As described by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum:

The rioters destroyed 267 synagogues throughout Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland. Many synagogues burned throughout the night, in full view of the public and of local firefighters, who had received orders to intervene only to prevent flames from spreading to nearby buildings. SA and Hitler Youth members across the country shattered the shop windows of an estimated 7,500 Jewish-owned commercial establishments, and looted their wares. Jewish cemeteries became a particular object of desecration in many regions. The pogrom proved especially destructive in Berlin and Vienna, home to the two largest Jewish communities in the German Reich. Mobs of SA men roamed the streets, attacking Jews in their houses and forcing Jews they encountered to perform acts of public humiliation. Although murder did not figure in the central directives, Kristallnacht claimed the lives of at least 91 Jews between the 9th and 10th of November. Police records of the period document a high number of rapes and of suicides in the aftermath of the violence.

Kristallnacht was thus a crucial turning point in the Holocaust—moving from a policy of removing Jews from Germany and German occupied lands, to murdering them. It also stands as an enduring example of the danger of associating citizenship with ethnicity, of tying loyalty to the state with blood identity.

Kristallnacht is but one example of how hate can proliferate and erode our societies and why I have worked tirelessly to advance global efforts to ensure atrocities such as this never happen again. In my capacity as a chair of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and decades-long work as a Member of Congress, I have advanced efforts to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance and discrimination in North America and Europe.

This work has ranged from commission hearings to raise awareness of the continuing scourge of anti-Semitism to leading interparliamentary efforts to create personal representatives or high-level officials within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to combat Anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. Sadly, the election of anti-Semitic political parties in Europe coupled with efforts to adopt circumcision, ritual slaughter, and other laws in Europe that would alter Jewish life and continuing incidents of anti-Semitic violence let us

know that the work to eradicate anti-Semitism is not yet complete.

As we honor the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht, I ask that you join me in honoring the victims and families of that horrible tragedy and join me in fighting hate and bias in all its forms.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, due to unexpected family commitments, I was unable to cast a vote relative to rollcall vote No. 204 on the nomination of Todd Hughes to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on his nomination.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WESTPORT ALL-STARS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I wish to congratulate the Westport Little League team who made it all the way to the national Little League World Series finals earlier this year. The 11 phenomenal student players from Westport, CT comprised the first team from Connecticut to reach the final rounds of the Little League World Series since 1989.

The Westport Little League team came to the Little League World Series as New England champions and played against the reigning Northwest team from Washington State to make it to the finals. In this thrilling qualifier, Westport rallied from behind, winning 14 to 13 in the seventh inning with a single to left field. This game was the fourth time in Little League World Series history where both teams completed 27 runs and the third time in history to score a collective 30 hits.

Although these students from Westport did not win in the next few championship games, they never gave up. Even in their fight for third place against a team from Tijuana, Mexico, they played their hardest to the very end. Player Chad Knight hit two home runs and drove in seven more, making a Little League Series world record of nine runs.

After their great success, Connecticut welcomed them home with a parade through the streets of Westport and an afternoon at the Governor's mansion. The Westport Little League team was invited as a special guest of the Yankees and hosted by the Red Sox at Fenway Park.

I also wish to congratulate Tim Rogers, manager and head coach of the team, assistant coaches Brett Reiner and Tom Whelan, and the parents and loved ones of these inspiring young players. I am incredibly proud of their success, representing Connecticut as role models for student athletes around the country. They worked together as a team to reach the ultimate honor in youth baseball.●

EASTLAKE ALL-STARS

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am pleased to congratulate the 2013 Eastlake Little League All-Star team from Chula Vista, CA on capturing the U.S. Championship at the 67th Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. The determination, sportsmanship, and love of the game exhibited by these young athletes inspired people in Chula Vista and throughout California.

Since its establishment almost 75 years ago, Little League Baseball has grown from just three teams to become the world's largest youth sports program. This year's Little League World Series featured 8 regional champions from the United States and 8 international teams, representing the millions of children in 79 countries on 6 continents who take part in the great American pastime.

The Eastlake Little League All-Stars traveled a long road to Williamsport. In order to qualify for the Little League World Series, these extraordinary young players had to first defeat worthy opponents at the District 42 Championship in South Bay, the Section 7 Championship in Spring Valley, the Sub-Division III Championship in Corona, and the Division III Championship in Long Beach, before securing the West Region Championship in San Bernardino with a 3-to-1 tournament record.

Representing the West at the World Series, the Eastlake All-Stars showcased their talents with several impressive feats of athleticism. In a tense game against the Great Lakes All-Stars, Eastlake's Grant Holman became the first pitcher since 1979 to throw an extra-inning no-hitter at the Little League World Series. Later, Eastlake routed the New England All-Stars 12-to-1 to take the U.S. Championship. Reaching the World Series Championship game, Eastlake fought valiantly to take the lead before falling 6-to-4 to the talented team from Tokyo, Japan.

In Chula Vista, the Eastlake All-Stars received a hero's welcome at a community homecoming celebrating the new U.S. World Series Champions. In the spirit of international goodwill and sportsmanship that characterizes the Little League World Series, the Eastlake players were joined in Chula Vista by the neighboring team from the Municipal de Tijuana Little League of Tijuana, Mexico, who placed third in the World Series.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all the members of the Eastlake Little League All-Star team on their extraordinary achievement: Micah Pietila-Wiggs, Ricky Tibbett, Rennard Williams, Dominic Haley, Patrick Archer, Kevin Bateman II, Jake Espinoza, Giancarlo Cortez, Grant Holman, Charly Peterson, Michael Gaines, and Nick Mora, along with the dedicated coaches, parents, and volunteers who contributed to their success.●