

South Charleston, West Virginia, he has devoted his efforts to researching and applying catalysts to create new production methods and help improve existing industrial processes. His invention and implementation of nine generations of ethylene epoxidation catalysts led to his recognition by the American Chemical Society. The catalysts that Dr. Bhasin invented allow for the more efficient conversion of ethylene epoxidation to ethylene oxide and ethylene glycol, which are components in products such as polyester and anti-freeze. Billions of pounds of ethylene epoxidation are used each year so increasing the conversion efficiency has allowed Union Carbide to remain one of the world leaders in this market as well as save energy and reduce by-products. This is obviously a win for Union Carbide, the environment and the state of West Virginia.

Again I would like to take this opportunity to publically recognize and congratulate Dr. Bhasin for this great accolade and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.●

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 1998

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am here today to talk about some good news for a change. I want to talk about the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1998 that Senator McCain is introducing, and I am cosponsoring. The purpose of this legislation is to link some of the amazing innovations in wireless technology to 9-1-1 and emergency response professionals.

All kinds of technologies exist today that can greatly reduce response time to emergencies and help victims get the right kind of medical attention quickly. But right now these technologies are not connected in ways that we can use them for emergencies. That's why this effort to upgrade our 9-1-1 systems across the nation is so important and necessary.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has conducted studies showing that crash-to-care time for fatal accidents is about a half hour in urban areas. In rural areas, which covers most of my home state of Montana, that crash-to-care time almost doubles. On average, it takes just shy of an hour to get emergency attention to crash victims in rural areas. Almost half of the serious crash victims who do not receive care in that first hour die at the scene of the accident. That's a scary statistic. But it doesn't have to continue that way.

Drew Dawson, who is the Director of the Montana Emergency Medical Services Bureau and president of the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors, strongly supports this legislation. He tells me that the bill will help bring better wireless 9-1-1 coverage to Montana and will enhance our statewide Trauma Care System. Mr. Dawson believes this legislation will help him and his emer-

gency folks do their job better, which means it will help them save more lives than they already do.

Montana unfortunately has a high motor vehicle crash death rate. Part of this bill promotes research on something called Automatic Crash Notification technology or ACN as Mr. Dawson and the trauma and emergency professionals call it. ACN technology takes the sensors in cars, such as airbag sensors and speed sensors, and links them to a wireless phone and a location device. When an ACN-equipped car in a remote area of Montana crashes, the car automatically dials 9-1-1. Not only does the car dial 9-1-1 but it transmits data telling the emergency operator where exactly the crash victim is and the likelihood of the victim's injuries. This ACN system also opens up a voice channel enabling the emergency operator to speak to the crash victim.

ACN technology comes into effect only seconds after the crash. It can be rigged so that the emergency operator gets the crash information as well as the nearest trauma center. ACN would eliminate many drawn out search and rescues that usually have to take place.

In these crash situations, time is of the essence. The emergency medical professionals refer to the first hour after a crash as the "Golden Hour." They say if they can get to victims in that first hour, then they have a good chance of limiting the severity of the injuries. Once the clock ticks over an hour, the chances of medical miracles lessen more and more. Reducing response time means the difference between life and death.

I have to say a word about all of the good work that folks like Drew Dawson in Montana and other emergency professionals do all over the country. The United States has the most skilled and dedicated group of medical and emergency professionals in the world. We just need to give them better tools. There is technology out there that can help these professionals and that can help all of us citizens, if, God forbid, we ever find ourselves in an emergency situation needing this kind of help. The Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1998 will help all of us and will make our emergency services even better than they are today.

Mr. President, I hope all of my colleagues will join me and help pass this important legislation.●

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE (CALA)

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize today the efforts of a group of West Virginia citizens who have joined together to address an important issue affecting our state and the nation. These individuals, who have formed Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA), are working to educate the public about how excesses in our civil justice system can be harmful.

CALA volunteer spokespersons are speaking out about how lawsuit abuse

means people pay through higher prices for consumer products, higher medical expenses, higher taxes and lost business expansion and product development. I should note that my own concerns relate to abuse of the system which comes in the form of frivolous suits and inappropriate delays—not legitimate use of our tort system.

CALA reports that recent studies of liability costs have found that our State has a high lawsuit and liability cost relative to our economic output measured as gross state product. As another example of the effect of lawsuit abuse, CALA's own survey of all West Virginia municipalities last year found an estimated annual lawsuit-related cost for our municipal taxpayers to be more than \$9 million. Nationally, it has been estimated that the costs of our civil justice system averages \$1200 per person per year.

Legal reform of any kind is not a simple issue. The legal system is essential to provide justice to every American. But that does not mean that the status quo is perfect. When lawsuits and the courts can be used in excess or result in imposing costs without reason on the other parties, from individuals to not-for-profit agencies to businesses, the system should be reviewed and reformed if possible.

I often have spoken about the problems of our product liability system. We see the terrible consequences of our country's confusing patchwork, slow, and often unfair system of product liability rules that need to be properly and fairly reformed.

The leaders of West Virginia's CALA movement should be commended here today. Volunteers such as Robert Mauk of Huntington; Jim Thomas, Sid Davis and Mac McJunkin of Charleston; Cuz Blake of Bridgeport; Phyllis Garner of Clarksburg; Rick Pruitte of Fairmont; and Sam Chico of Morgantown are all working hard to ensure that our State has a strong, fair and effective civil justice system that will serve all West Virginians and grow our economy and job base. These people give their time to speak to community groups, organize educational activities and distribute materials to help us all be conscious of lawsuit costs and excesses of the system.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse groups have declared September 21 through 26 to be "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" in West Virginia. I want to commend these citizens for their dedication and commitment and to acknowledge this week as time of public awareness on the serious issues associated with lawsuit abuse.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 824

through 850, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

James M. Bodner, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Stephen W. Preston, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

Herbert Lee Buchanan III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Jeh Charles Johnson, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

Richard Danzig, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of the Navy.

AIR FORCE

The following named Reserve officer for appointment as Chief of the Air Force Reserve under title 10, U.S.C., section 8038:

To be Chief of the Air Force Reserve, United States Air Force

Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard, III, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert W. Chedister, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Charles R. Heflebower, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Thomas R. Case, 0000

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Richard J. Hart, 0000

The following named officer for appointment as The Judge Advocate General of the United States Air Force and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 8037:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. William A. Moornan, 0000

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. William M. Steele, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John Costello, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Ronald E. Adams, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Randolph W. House, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David S. Weisman, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Daniel J. Petrosky, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. James S. Allan, 0000

Capt. Maurice B. Hill, Jr., 0000

Capt. Duret S. Smith, 0000

Capt. James M. Walley, Jr., 0000

Capt. Jerry D. West, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Dennis C. Blair, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 6624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. David Architzel, 0000

Capt. Jose L. Betancourt, 0000

Capt. Annette E. Brown, 0000

Capt. Brian M. Calhoun, 0000

Capt. Kevin J. Cosgriff, 0000

Capt. Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr., 0000

Capt. Joseph E. Enright, 0000

Capt. Terrance T. Etnyre, 0000

Capt. Mark P. Fitzgerald, 0000

Capt. Johnathan W. Greenert, 0000

Capt. Charles H. Griffiths, Jr., 0000

Capt. Stephen C. Heilman, 0000

Capt. Curtis A. Kemp, 0000

Capt. Anthony W. Lenderich, 0000

Capt. Walter B. Massenburg, 0000

Capt. Michael G. Mathis, 0000

Capt. James K. Moran, 0000

Capt. Charles L. Munns, 0000

Capt. Richard B. Porterfield, 0000

Capt. Isaac E. Richardson, III, 0000

Capt. James A. Robb, 0000

Capt. Paul S. Schultz, 0000

Capt. Joseph A. Sestaak, Jr., 0000

Capt. David M. Stone, 0000

Capt. Steven J. Tomaszeski, 0000

Capt. John W. Townes, III, 0000

Capt. Thomas E. Zelibor, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Vernon E. Clark, 0000

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE, ARMY, MARINE CORPS, NAVY

Air Force nominations beginning Jeffrey C. Mabry, and ending Neal A. Thagard, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 30, 1998.

Air Force nominations beginning Hart Jacobsen, and ending Henry S. Jordan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 1998.

Air Force nominations beginning Charles C. Armstead, and ending Scott A. Zuerlein, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 1998.

Air Force nomination of Larry V. Zettwoch, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 1998.

Army nominations beginning *David W. Acuff, and ending *Michael E. Yarman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 22, 1998.

Army nominations beginning David W. Brooks, and ending Shelby R. Pearcy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 30, 1998.

Army nomination of James G. Harris, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 1998.

Army nomination of Carl W. Huff, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 1998.

Army nominations beginning Robert D. Alston, and ending Earl R. Woods, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 1998.

Marine Corps nomination of Edward R. Cawthon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 1998.

Navy nominations beginning Ann E.B. Adcock, and ending Thomas J. Yurik, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 22, 1998.

Navy nominations beginning David W. Adams, and ending John R. Anderson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 30, 1998.

Navy nominations beginning Thomas A. Buterbaugh, and ending Dermot P. Cashman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 1998.

Navy nominations beginning Dean A. Barsalaeu, and ending James N. Rosenthal, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 1998.

Navy nominations beginning John M. Adams, and ending Maureen J. Zeller, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 1998.

Navy nominations beginning Christopher L. Abbott, and ending Kevin S. Zumbard, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 1998.

Navy nominations beginning Daniel Avenancio, and ending Carl B. Weicksel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 11, 1998.

Navy nominations beginning Karla M. Abreuolson, ending Glen A. Zurlo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 11, 1998.

Navy nominations beginning Leanne K. Aaby, and ending Michael J. Zuccherro, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

FEDERAL MEAT AND POULTRY EMPLOYEES PAY ACT OF 1998

Mr. BENNETT. I ask unanimous consent the Agriculture Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2511 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2511) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to pay employees of the Food Safety and Inspection Service working in establishments subject to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act for overtime and holiday work performed by the employees.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNETT. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2511

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Meat and Poultry Employees Pay Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. OVERTIME AND HOLIDAY PAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture may—

(1) pay employees of the Department of Agriculture employed in an establishment subject to the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) for all overtime and holiday work performed at the establishment at rates determined by the Secretary, subject to applicable law relating to minimum wages and maximum hours; and

(2) accept from the establishment reimbursement for any sums paid by the Secretary for the overtime and holiday work, at rates determined under paragraph (1).

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Sums received by the Secretary under this section shall remain available until expended without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation, to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Section 25 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 468) is amended by striking "except that the cost" and all that follows and inserting "except the cost of overtime and holiday pay paid pursuant to the Federal Meat and Poultry Employees Pay Act of 1998."

(b) The Act of June 5, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 695), is amended by striking "overtime" and all that follows and inserting "overtime and holiday pay paid pursuant to the Federal Meat and Poultry Employees Pay Act of 1998."

(c) The matter under the heading "BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY" of the Act of July 24, 1919, is amended by striking the next to the last paragraph (7 U.S.C. 394).

(d) Section 5549 of title 5, United States Code is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) The Federal Meat and Poultry Employees Pay Act of 1998;"

MAMMOGRAPHY QUALITY STANDARDS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 580, H.R. 4382.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4382) to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for mammography quality standards.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4382) was considered read the third time and passed.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4112, the legislative branch appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4112), have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by all of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of September 22, 1998.)

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the conference report be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the conference report be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The conference report was agreed to.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I must comment as chairman of the legislative branch subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I am particularly pleased with the action the Senate has just taken. I am proud of the work we did in conference, and I feel that Members of the Senate, as well as the House, will find the appropriate amount of support allocated for their activities in this conference report.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1998

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Monday, September 28. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate reconvenes on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be waived, the morning hour be deemed to have expired and that the time for the two leaders be reserved. I further ask that the Senate then begin a period for the transaction of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions:

Senator ROTH in control of the time until 12:40; Senator DORGAN, or his designee, for 40 minutes thereafter.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, on Monday, there will be a period for morning business from 12 noon until 2. Following morning business, the motion to proceed to the Internet tax bill will be the pending business. Members are encouraged to come to the floor to discuss the important issue of Internet tax. At 3:30 p.m., under a previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the so-called Vacancies Act for debate only until 5:30 p.m. Following that debate, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the vacancies bill. Following that vote, the Senate may consider any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

Members are reminded that second-degree amendments to the vacancy bill must be filed by 4:30 p.m. on Monday. And as a further reminder, a cloture motion was filed today on the motion to proceed to the Internet tax bill.