

Once again, I applaud his leadership in championing the protection of the environment.

Mr. President, for more than two decades, we have seen a remarkable bipartisan consensus on protecting the environment. As a consequence of this broad agreement, today we breathe cleaner air, drink cleaner water, and enjoy spectacular public lands.

Unfortunately, again during this Congress, we have faced numerous proposals to modify the environmental protections upon which American families depend. We have seen bills that would undermine the Wilderness Act and the management of our public lands, block implementation of the Endangered Species Act, rollback wetlands standards and weaken enforcement of clean water laws, and slow down or stop cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Congressional consideration of these proposals has been divisive, time-consuming, and ultimately unproductive.

Mr. President, I believe we have a responsibility to the American people to protect the quality of our public lands and resources. That responsibility of stewardship requires that I oppose legislative efforts to include proposals in routine spending bills that weaken environmental laws or prevent potentially beneficial environmental regulations from being promulgated by the federal agencies that carry out federal law.

In addition to my substantive concerns, Mr. President, I also share with the Senator from Montana a procedural concern about these riders. The people of Wisconsin have been calling my office in the last few weeks to express their grave concern that when riders are placed in spending bills major decisions regarding environmental protection are being made without the benefit of an up or down vote. Wisconsinites have very strong views that Congress has a responsibility to discuss and publicly debate matters affecting the environment. Thus, the Senior Senator from Montana is making an important procedural point for the Senate. We should be on record with regard to our position on this matter of open government and environmental stewardship.

Though I have substantive concerns about all of the riders that the Senior Senator from Montana has detailed, and others, I wanted to share my concerns by highlighting in detail a few riders contained in the Interior Appropriations legislation.

I am concerned about the language on forest road decommissioning that is contained in Title II of the Interior bill. This language prohibits the use of funds to decommission National Forest System roads until the Regional Forester certifies that all "unauthorized" roads are decommissioned or reconstructed. Mr. President, this mandate simply does not recognize that maintaining existing roads is a priority both in Wisconsin's national forests

and throughout Forest Service Region 9. Our existing road system in the Nicolet and Chequamegon National Forests not only serves those who visit our forests, but also serves our local communities. Forest Service roads are important routes between communities in the northern part of my state. I also travel them when I attend Listening Sessions and other events in northern Wisconsin. I am concerned that if our forests have to spend time documenting all unauthorized roads this fiscal year, such as snowmobile crossings and other rights of way, we will neither get to accomplish any needed decommissioning, nor any much needed maintenance.

I also oppose the rider regarding logging in Tongass National Forest contained in the Interior bill. While Wisconsin's national forests have struggled to bring their timber sales above cost, I am concerned that this rider requires that the Forest Service offer for sale, and allow the logging of, ninety percent of the timber volume proposed by the Tongass Land Management Plan, a plan which is currently under appeal to the Secretary of Agriculture. Moreover, this rider contains a dangerous, precedent-setting provision that makes this requirement legally enforceable. I strongly believe that taxpayers should be getting a better return for the sale of timber from public lands, and I am concerned about increasing cut volumes when we still need to address below cost issues on the Tongass.

These are a few of my concerns, Mr. President. I believe that the Senate should act to strip these riders from the bill and send clean Interior funding provisions to the President for his signature. I encourage my colleagues to take the advice of the Senior Senator from Montana, and act to fund the programs we must fund without taking environmental policy actions that the public opposes.

ACTIVATION OF THE MONTANA GUARD CAVALRY TROOP, THE BLACKHORSE UNIT

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I stand here today to recognize the beginning of a new era for the Montana Army National Guard. Activation of the Montana Guard Cavalry Troop, also known as the Blackhorse unit, will commence on October 3, 1998. This will be an integrated cavalry troop that is part of a regiment whose distinguished history dates back to the turn of the century.

The Blackhorse is currently one of only three armored cavalry regiments in the United States Army. The mission of this regiment is to train Army units for the next possible war and does so by challenging those units in real life scenarios to meet the test of active warfare. The Blackhorse unit is considered the most highly trained unit in the United States Army. The Montana Army National Guard is both honored and privileged to join the Blackhorse unit as an equal partner.

The Montana Army National Guard must be prepared to meet the challenges of what the future may hold. Now affiliated with the Blackhorse unit, the men and the women of Montana who serve to protect our nation, will be ready.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR ROTH

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to take just a minute of the Senate's time to let my colleagues know of an honor that Senator ROTH received from the Delaware Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

In a gala event last night in Wilmington, Delaware, Senator ROTH was honored for his achievements as a legislator and for his outstanding contributions to Delaware and to the nation. This was the Multiple Sclerosis Society's first-ever Dinner of Champions, and it is quite an honor for Senator ROTH to be one of the first two individuals recognized by the organization.

The other individual recognized last evening was Richard Christopher, the President of Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate. He and his company have been sponsors of and participants in the Bike-to-the-Bay fundraising event. The DuPont Company also received an award for its decade-long support of the popular Read-a-thon program. Senator ROTH was in excellent company last night.

And, fortunately, he was able to be there and accept the award in person. That is, Mr. President, one of the advantages of representing a State that is close to Washington. Senator ROTH could both vote here in the Senate and still get back to Wilmington in time to receive the award. I know that was important to him.

I thank my colleagues for allowing me to take this brief time. And, I congratulate Senator ROTH on his award.

SECURITY AT GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to clarify an issue regarding the security at the two uranium enrichment facilities. Section 310 of the conference report which deals with the allocation between the Department and the private corporation leasing the gaseous diffusion plants of the cost of arming and providing arrest authority to security police officers at the plants. I want to make it very clear that this section does not affect the current responsibility of the Department to pay for security for the Department's highly enriched uranium activities.

Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to thank the officials with the Department of Energy and the officials from the newly privatized United States Enrichment Corporation who sat down with my office and negotiated in good faith a solution to this difficult

matter. I am pleased to have an agreement once and for all.●

THE YEAR 2000 INFORMATION AND READINESS DISCLOSURE ACT

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I was delighted to see that the Senate passed S. 2392 ("The Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act") yesterday. I introduced this legislation with Senators ROBERT F. BENNETT (R-UT) and CHRISTOPHER J. DODD (D-CT) on July 30, 1998. This "Good Samaritan" legislation is intended to promote the open sharing of information about Y2K solutions by protecting those who share information in good faith from liability claims based on the dissemination of that information. I want to make it clear that this legislation does not address liability that may arise separately from actual Y2K failures of systems or devices. The head of the President's Council on Y2K, John Koskinen, said that passing this bill is one of the most important things that we could do on the Y2K front. I agree.

Over two years ago I stated "that the year 2000 problem is indeed serious, and that fixing it will be costly and time-consuming. The problem deserves the careful and coordinated attention of the Federal Government, as well as the private sector, in order to avert major disruptions on January 1, 2000." On July 31, 1996 I sent President Clinton a letter expressing my views and concerns about Y2K. I warned him of the "extreme negative economic consequences of the Y2K Time Bomb," and suggested that "a presidential aide be appointed to take responsibility for assuring that all Federal Agencies, including the military, be Y2K compliant by January 1, 1999 [leaving a year for 'testing'] and that all commercial and industrial firms doing business with the federal government must also be compliant by that date."

January 1, 1999 is quickly approaching. I believe the "Good Samaritan" legislation that my colleagues passed last night will play a significant role in helping private firms and the government in addressing the computer problem. I am hopeful that we will have this problem in check come the year 2000, but, as the Duke said of Waterloo, it will be "close run thing."●

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY FOR SWISSAIR 111 RECOVERY EFFORTS

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the U.S. Navy for their initial efforts in search and recovery operations in the wake of the SwissAir Flight 111 tragedy.

At the request of the Canadian government, the U.S. Navy sent the Hampton Roads-based Rescue and Salvage Ship USS GRAPPLE and members of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two to assist our friends and neighbors in this operation. The ship, commanded by Lieutenant Commander David E.

Davis, has a lifting capability of 300 tons and employs the latest high technology sonar and diving equipment. This enables her to conduct diving operations up to 190 feet beneath the ocean's surface.

Specifically, I'd like to commend the men and women who are carrying out this important mission. These sailors are highly-trained professionals who have experience in handling challenging and dangerous diving operations. Some of the team members worked with the TWA Flight 800 recovery and can draw upon those experiences. Although the circumstances that sent GRAPPLE and our sailors to Nova Scotia are tragic and unusual, the teamwork of our Navy and that of Canada has been fostered for many years. This allows us to work together effectively in such times of crisis. It is our hope that the efforts of GRAPPLE and Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two will help provide comfort and closure to those people who lost loved ones in this accident.

Mr. President, please join me in recognizing the significant contribution of America's high-tech Navy and brave sailors.●

RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAVELERS AID SOCIETY OF DETROIT

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Travelers Aid Society of Detroit, which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary on October 15, 1998. Travelers Aid has been an important part of Metropolitan Detroit's network of community service organizations since its inception in 1923.

Travelers Aid was first created as an arm of the YWCA to assist young women who had recently settled in Detroit. In 1923, as the City of Detroit was growing by leaps and bounds, the Travelers Aid Society of Detroit was chartered as an independent institution to serve people who became stranded or lost. Since its chartering as an independent institution, Travelers Aid has broadened its activities from its original mandate to include assisting men and women, the homeless, runaway youths, victims of domestic violence, children traveling alone, the physically challenged and travelers at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Travelers Aid has developed innovative programs, like Homeward Bound and the Supportive Housing Opportunities Program, which have helped thousands of people recover from homelessness. Each year, Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Travelers Aid helps 250 runaway children find their way back home and introduces 150 adopted babies from foreign lands to their new American families. Along with the City of Detroit and the Lovelight Foundation, Travelers Aid sponsors the annual "A Special Gift" Christmas party for 2,500 homeless children at Detroit's Cobo Hall.

On October 15, 1998, many people from my hometown will join together

at the historic Wayne County Building to celebrate Travelers Aid's 75 years of service to the community. This celebration is being chaired by N. Brewster Broder, with the assistance of Honorary Chair Nettie Seabrooks and Honorary Co-Chairs Charlie Williams and Larry Givens. Community Service awards will be given to four outstanding individuals whose commitment to improving their community is truly inspiring. The award recipients are Aaliyah, an Oscar nominated recording artist; Delphine Fairbanks, a tireless volunteer at Detroit Metropolitan Airport; Geneva Williams, COO of United Way Community Services; and William McKenzie of Michigan Rehabilitation Service.

Mr. President, the men and women of the Travelers Aid Society of Detroit exemplify so many of the qualities that make our country great. Their dedication to their community, compassion for those in need and innovative problem-solving skills affect the lives of tens of thousands of people each year. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to the Travelers Aid Society of Detroit for the important services they have provided for the past 75 years, and in offering congratulations to the four Community Service Award recipients on this special occasion.●

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. S. W. "MEL" MELIDOSIAN

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today Mr. S.W. "Mel" Melidosian is being recognized for his distinguished service in the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia, the place where much of his illustrious career has taken place. After an astounding 57 years of devoted service to our nation, this remarkable man continues to serve veterans and their families. I am certain that this august body will join me in commending Mr. Melidosian on this special day.

Mr. Melidosian's service began in the Armed Services during World War II. From 1941 to 1946, he served as a U.S. Army Ordinance Management Officer at the European Theater Headquarters and on the faculty of the Ordnance School. From 1951 to 1953, he served at the U.S. Army Logistics Command, Korea and at the U.S. Army Frankford Arsenal.

He began serving veterans at the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1946 in the Insurance Service but was recalled to active duty in Korea. In 1953, he resumed his VA job and in 1959, he was appointed Deputy Chief Insurance Director. From 1961 to 1984, he served as Director of the VA Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia, where he was instrumental in the installation of VA's first computer system for the Life Insurance Programs; consolidation of VA Regional Offices and Insurance Offices; creation of the