

So it is my hope that we will all take a deep breath, let Mr. Starr continue his investigation, put it on the back burner, take the pressure off the President, give him the presumption of innocence until the investigation is completed, and give Mr. Starr the similar presumption of propriety as to what he is doing so we can move forward to the very important business at hand in this country, including the ISTEAL legislation.

I note the hour of 10:45 has come. And ISTEAL is the pending business which will occupy the country, much to the benefit of the country, contrasted with the matters relating to Mr. Starr and the President on that pending investigation.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

THE BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, during a much earlier stage in my life, I was a police officer. It was a different time. Police officers were treated much differently then than now. One of the things I did not have to worry about was wearing any type of bulletproof vest or body armor. That is not the case today. Things are much different than when I was a police officer.

Now all law enforcement officers in the United States, sadly, must be concerned about being shot or in some way harmed as a result of their being a police officer. Because of that, Mr. President, I am very happy to commend this body for the passage of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act, which was passed last night by unanimous consent in this body. I commend Senators LEAHY, CAMPBELL and HATCH for working on this legislation with this Senator and others. We ask that this matter be acted on very quickly by the House and sent to the President as soon as possible.

This bipartisan legislation creates a \$25 million fund and a 50 percent matching grant program within the Department of Justice to help State and local law enforcement agencies purchase body armor and bulletproof vests. The State of Nevada will receive at least \$200,000 each year for this.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, more than 30 percent of the approximately 1,200 police officers who have been killed by firearms since 1980—30 percent, I repeat—would have had their lives saved if they had been wearing bulletproof vests or body armor of some kind.

The FBI estimates that the risk of fatality to officers while not wearing these body protectors is almost 14 times higher than those wearing such body protection. We hear all the time about police officers who do not have the same protection that criminals have. And that is the truth. It is a sad state of affairs when criminals many times are better protected on our streets than our law enforcement officials are.

We cannot allow the criminal element to have the upper hand. One thing we can do is what we are doing in this legislation to protect law enforcement officers all over the country, including the State of Nevada, who put their lives on the line every day to protect us—our property and our person.

Boulder City Police Officer David Mullin, who acts as the chief of police of Boulder City said:

These vests are real life savers. They not only help protect officers from attacks involving guns and knives, they have [even] saved many officers from major injuries or death in traffic accidents. Unfortunately, [he goes on to say] there is a real difficulty in meeting purchasing and replacement [costs of these instruments].

These body-protection elements will go a long way in helping law enforcement in Nevada. Bulletproof vests can cost \$1,000. They cost that much money. Nevada Highway Patrol Col. Michael E. Hood recently recounted a story about Maj. Dan Hammack, of the Nevada Highway Patrol. He stopped someone. The person immediately got out of the car—this is a routine traffic stop—and shot Major Hammack in the stomach. Had he been wearing this armor, he would not have been injured at all.

Unfortunately, the accounts of Chief David Mullin and Highway Patrol Col. Michael Hood are stories that are heard all over the country on a daily basis. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act will ensure that all our law enforcement officials will have the ability to be equipped and protected for their jobs. I think this legislation should move as quickly as possible in the House so we can save the lives of police officers on a daily basis in this country.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. I say to the Senator, I would very much like to be a cosponsor with the Senator. I find, Mr. President, in my work in the Senate that when Senator REID speaks, I listen. He has made a very valuable contribution to the highway bill as a member of our committee. I have followed this same subject for some time. I know that law enforcement across the land would be heartened by this initiative. It is long overdue, Senator.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend from Virginia, the law enforcement officials in Virginia have the same difficulty as the law enforcement officials in Nevada and the rest of the country. As we come home late at night, I see, along the parkway going to my home in Virginia, police officers have pulled somebody over. It is dark at night and they are out there alone. That is a frightening thing. Think of how that man or woman who has to do that feels in the dead of night, pulling over somebody, and they don't know for sure who is in the car. They know something is wrong or they wouldn't pull the car over.

What this legislation does is give them an even break. They have some

protection if this person, in their cowardly manner, gets out and shoots them. These body protectors will stop a bullet from killing them. It will still hurt, but it will stop the bullet from killing them.

I express my appreciation to the senior Senator from Virginia for his kind comments and his usually fine advocacy on behalf of the people of Virginia and this country.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator, and I ask unanimous consent I be made a cosponsor of the bill.

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

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE T. SINGLEY, III

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the professional dedication, vision, and public service of Mr. George T. Singley, III. He is retiring after 33 years of military and civilian service in the Department of Defense, most recently, as Acting Director of Defense Research and Engineering [DDR&E]. A native of Delaware, and a long time Virginia resident, Mr. Singley is a nationally and internationally renowned technology leader. As both Deputy and Acting Director of Defense Research and Engineering, he has guided our nation's Science and Technology (S&T) defense effort for several years.

His extraordinary vision and strong leadership have dramatically enhanced the defense S&T program. This contribution significantly improved our efforts to field a force whose technological superiority remains unchallenged, now, and well into the next century. He has focused the defense S&T program on developing capabilities necessary to achieve the goals of future joint warfighting, as expressed in the Chairman's Joint Vision 2010.

Before coming to DDR&E, Mr. Singley served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology. He was responsible for the Army's entire S&T program. This program, spanning 21 laboratories and centers with approximately 10,000 scientists/engineers had an annual budget of \$1.4 billion. Mr. Singley also was the chief scientist to both the Secretary of the Army and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development and Acquisition. As a Program Execution Officer in the Army, he led five helicopter program offices. He pioneered the Light Helicopter Experimental (LHX) program, better known as Comanche, which became the Army's first stealth helicopter program. A truly remarkable career.

Mr. Singley is Chairman of the Executive Board of the American Helicopter Society. He served as their President from May 1996 through April 1997. He is a past Vice President of the Army Aviation Association of America, and a member of the Association of the United States Army. His numerous awards include:

Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award (twice);

Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Awards;

Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence;

Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award;

American Defense Preparedness Association Firepower Award;

University of Delaware College Distinguished Engineering Alumnus;

Exceptional Civilian Service Award;

Meritorious Civilian Service (twice);

Department of Army Staff Badge; and

American Helicopter Society Grover S. Bell Award for Rotorcraft Research;

He has more than 20 technical publications and numerous technical articles to credit.

I know that Mr. Singley's wife Maxine, and his children, George, Kristine, and Dean, and the Department of Defense are proud of his accomplishments. My colleagues join me in wishing George 'fair winds and following seas' as he pursues many new and exciting challenges in the private sector. The Nation and our military are indebted to you for your many years of distinguished service.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 11, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,528,971,446,018.69 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-eight billion, nine hundred seventy-one million, four hundred forty-six thousand, eighteen dollars and sixty-nine cents).

One year ago, March 11, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,357,359,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-seven billion, three hundred fifty-nine million).

Five years ago, March 11, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,211,257,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred eleven billion, two hundred fifty-seven million).

Ten years ago, March 11, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,482,356,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred eighty-two billion, three hundred fifty-six million).

Fifteen years ago, March 11, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,225,057,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred twenty-five billion, fifty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,303,914,446,018.69 (Four trillion, three hundred three billion, nine hundred fourteen million, four hundred forty-six thousand, eighteen dollars and sixty-nine cents) during the past 15 years.

THE CASE FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO SKILLED PERSONNEL

MR. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my colleagues an important article on the severe problems U.S. companies, particularly in the high technology sector, are facing with regards to skilled workers. In the

March 9, 1998 edition of the Wall Street Journal, Dr. T.J. Rodgers the President and Chief Executive Officer of Cypress Semiconductor Corporation, clearly articulated why this country needs increased access to skilled professionals. The author is widely considered to be a leading authority on high-tech issues and recently offered his expertise on the H1-B visa issue in a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the shortage of high-tech workers in America. I urge my colleagues to read Dr. Rodgers' educated summary of this serious problem and consider a bill I introduced last week with Senators HATCH, MCCAIN, DEWINE, SPECTER and GRAMS, S. 1723, the "American Competitiveness Act," which seeks to address the serious issues raised in Dr. Rodgers' article.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Rodgers' article be inserted into the RECORD.

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

GIVE US YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR—AND YOUR ENGINEERS

Last year, the U.S. Labor Department interrupted four key projects at my company, Cypress Semiconductor: a memory chip for Internet applications, a microcontroller chip for personal computers, our chip-manufacturing control system and our most advanced CMOS process technology, which permits the design of very low-power integrated circuits.

The reason? U.S. high-tech companies had hit the annual cap of 65,000 H1-B visas, which allow highly skilled foreigners to work in the U.S. As a result, we had to lay off highly skilled technology workers who were waiting for their visas, delaying the sale of millions of new chips and the creation of hundreds of manufacturing jobs.

We have 16 other projects backlogged due to engineering shortages—and that's not surprising when the unemployment rate in electrical engineering is a rock-bottom 0.4%. Although we recruit on 27 college campuses and hire all the immigrants we're allowed, Cypress cannot find enough engineers to grow at its full potential. So it goes across Silicon Valley: The Information Technology Association of America says there are \$346,000 unfilled skilled positions nationwide. In a survey, the association's members say this engineering crunch is the No. 1 factor inhibiting the growth of their companies.

And yet Washington is sending immigrants home, including many new graduates of American colleges. Half of technology doctorates awarded by U.S. universities go to foreign nationals. The president of Taiwan's Winbond Semiconductor, just penalized by the International Trade Commission for dumping in the U.S., has a doctorate from Princeton.

The labor shortage is getting worse. Last year Washington cut off H1-B immigration for one month. This year it will be four months, unless Congress increases the H1-B quota. The administration has opted for the immigration shutdown because it wants to "protect" American workers from "cheap" immigrant labor, a doubly incorrect position. In fact, skilled immigrants create new jobs for native-born Americans, and a Cato Institute study shows that long-term unemployment is lower and wages higher in cities and states with higher immigrant concentrations.

Yet the Clinton-Gore administration, an off-and-on friend of Silicon Valley, has

turned its back on high-tech again, as I recently told the Senate Judiciary Committee, where I was joined by representatives of Intel, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems and Texas Instruments. Commerce Secretary William Daley has said that an increase in H1-B immigration is "not feasible"—Washington-speak for "drop dead." But Sen. Spencer Abraham (R., Mich.), for one, is listening. He introduced legislation last week that would raise the H1-B cap by a modest 25,000.

The claim that skilled H1-B immigrants take jobs from Americans is preposterous. Did Hungarian immigrant and Intel CEO Andy Grove take some "real" American's job, or did he help to create 50,000 high-quality jobs?

Engineers create jobs. Cypress employs 470 engineers out of 2,771 employees. Each engineer thus creates five additional jobs to make, administer and sell the products he develops. A disproportionate number of our research-and-development engineers—37%—are immigrants, typical for Silicon Valley. Had we been prevented from hiring those 172 immigrant engineers, we couldn't have created about 860 other jobs, 70% of which are in the U.S.

Cypress now employs 2,011 U.S. citizens, an accomplishment unachievable without immigrants. Four of our 10 vice presidents are immigrants. Lothar Maler, our vice president of manufacturing, emigrated from Germany as a child. He joined us with an engineering degree and a stint at Intel under his belt, and now manages 1,067 workers in six plants. John Torode, our chief technology officer, came to the U.S. after World War II with his father, a British sailor. After obtaining his doctorate and a computer science professorship at the University of California, Berkeley, John started our computer products division, which makes the clock chips used to synchronize 20 million personal computers a year.

Emmanuel Hernandez, our chief financial officer, was an all-star employee at National Semiconductor, Silicon Valley's second-largest chip company, which transferred him to the U.S. from the Philippines. Tony Alvarez, our vice president of R&D, fled Castro-controlled Cuba, in 1961 and now directs the 113 engineers who develop our most advanced technologies. Tony's chief scientist, Jose Arreola, emigrated from Mexico to get his doctorate and now manages an elite group of 30 engineers, 24 of whom have postgraduate degrees and 20 of whom are legal immigrants. Pat Buchanan derided immigrants during his 1996 presidential campaign, calling them "Jose." Our Jose has made Cypress's 2,011 American employees better off.

Pierre Lamond, our chairman, received an advanced degree in France, and was then recruited to work at Fairchild Semiconductor, which he left to become a founder of National Semiconductor. Today Pierre's venture-capital fund, Sequoia Partners, has provided capital to 200 Silicon Valley companies (including Apple and Genentech) with a total market value of \$175 billion and more than 150,000 employees. Eric Benhamou, another Cypress director, fled with his parents to France during the 1960 Algerian civil war. After his Stanford education, he became CEO of 3Com Corp., the leading Internet infrastructure supplier with 100 million customers and 13,200 employees.

The conclusion is clear: Our immigrant executives, directors and engineers have created thousands of new American jobs. The competition for workers is so intense in Silicon Valley that Cypress's average San Jose employee—excluding the executive staff and me—now earns \$81,860 annually, including benefits. The immigrant executives I have cited all earn six-figure incomes. Whose pay