

Israel, and another is foreign assistance. Since 1976, Israel has been the largest recipient of U.S. foreign assistance. Over the past 10 years, Israel has annually received about \$3 billion in economic and military grants, refugee settlement assistance, and other aid, from the United States.

Recently, we have seen a movement to gradually reduce that level of aid, beginning with the declaration by Prime Minister Netanyahu that Israel should reduce its dependence on the United States when he addressed a joint session of Congress two years ago. Negotiations have since been conducted with the goal of reducing the overall level of American assistance and to gradually phase out economic aid while increasing military aid.

Specifically, the Clinton administration and the Congress are currently reviewing an Israeli proposal to reduce the \$1.2 billion in U.S. *economic* assistance to Israel to zero over 10 years, and to increase U.S. *military* aid to Israel from \$1.8 billion to \$2.4 billion per year. I am intrigued by this idea, and am glad to see Israel taking the lead in this regard. Israel has recognized that in its 50-year history, it has made enormous strides in economic development and, as a result, now boasts a relatively healthy economy. At the same time, Israel recognizes—as I think we all do—that it still faces a substantial security threat, and so must maintain a robust military and access to state-of-the-art weaponry.

The proposal to change our aid relationship reflects this reality. It is an Israeli plan, and as such reflects Israeli priorities, including a desire to decrease its dependence on the United States, and boost its own self-sufficiency. I am concerned about potential unintended consequences of hasty action by the Congress, and so, I, along with others in this body are still considering our legislative response. But by and large I believe these are worthy goals that we should support, just as we have supported Israel in the past.

Ben-Gurion envisioned many achievements for Israel, including one I mentioned earlier, the idea of building a successful nation by marrying scientific advances with ancient Hebrew traditions. He believed that by drawing on the strength, wisdom and skill of a nation of faith and accomplishment, Israel could build a lasting peace with its neighbors.

Israel deserves that peace at last.

Just over 100 years ago, the First Zionist Congress convened in Basel, Switzerland. Under the leadership of Theodore Herzl, the participants announced their desire to reestablish a Jewish homeland in the historic land of Israel. Herzl once said that "If you will it, it is not a dream."

Israel is a testament to the will of a people who believed those words and proved them true.

It would be 51 years until the dream expressed at the First Zionist Congress would become reality, until Holocaust

survivors and other Jews persecuted around the world could have a homeland where they could seek refuge and build a life. And 50 years after that founding, Israel has taken root in the desert soil and it has thrived.

The United States has built an alliance and friendship with Israel that has enriched American life and helped Israel thrive, and I hope that partnership will continue for the next 50 years and beyond. But as Israelis well know and all of us must recognize, the dream of those at the First Zionist Congress and of other Jews for centuries, to have a homeland, cannot be truly fulfilled until peace is attained.

Violence and conflict are a constant threat to the people of Israel, and to the Nation of Israel itself. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the birth of Israel, we have every right to wish for something more. Not just for a Jewish homeland, but a homeland at peace.

As Theodore Herzl said, "If you will it, it is not a dream."•

TRIBUTE TO THE FLOYD COUNTY EMERGENCY AND RESCUE SQUAD: FORTY YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the recent anniversary of the Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad. Forty years ago, this squad of volunteers was formed to help the people of Eastern Kentucky in times of emergency and disaster, and have been doing so ever since.

The Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad was founded on April 27, 1958, as a result of a tragic accident in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, in which a school bus plunged into the Big Sandy River, killing 26 students and the driver. As a result of this tragedy, dozens of community members came together to form the Squad and the late Graham Burchett became the first Captain, a position he held for twenty years.

Since that time, over 300 community members have served on the Squad—doctors and lawyers, coal miners and factory workers—people from all walks of life have worked side-by-side in volunteer service to their community. The Squad operates without any public support. The members are all volunteers and all their equipment is paid for through private donations and grants.

The Squad currently maintains a roster of thirty active members and dozens of reserve members. The Squad is called on for auto extrication, water rescue and drowning recovery, lost or missing persons, and assistance to coal mine rescue teams. In the last month alone, they have assisted in the evacuation of flood victims, recovered a drowning victim and have assisted on four auto accidents.

Despite the fact that the Squad must labor mightily for every dollar they get, they have managed to secure ultra-modern equipment, and are

called frequently to assist in recovery activities outside the county and even outside the state.

Mr. President, I hope all my colleagues will join me in offering our congratulations to Captain Harry Adams, Co-Captain Richie Schoolcraft, Treasurer and Secretary Brian Sexton, First Lieutenant Derek Calhoun and Second Lieutenant Lee Schoolcraft and all the volunteers of the Floyd County Rescue Squad. They carry on the Squad's rich tradition of volunteering their time and risking their lives to help the people of their community, and they are all worthy of our admiration and thanks.●

ANTI-SLAMMING AMENDMENTS ACT

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, yesterday, Senator MCCAIN and Senator HOLLINGS proposed a managers' amendment, Amendment No. 2389 to S. 1618, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934. The amendment significantly improves the protections for consumers against "slammers," persons who deliberately deceive consumers and change their long distance carrier without proper authorization. The manager's amendment included two of my amendments which were cosponsored by Senator DURBIN and Senator GLENN.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing recently on slamming. At this hearing, we became aware of the fact that slammers intentionally used names like Phone Company and Long Distance Services to deliberately deceive customers on their phone bills. Usually local telephone companies or billing agents precede an itemized list of long distance calls by printing the name of the long distance service provider. When deceptive company names are used, customers are not aware that their long distance service provider has been changed. My intention was to remedy this situation by requiring the billing companies to specify the long distance provider using a statement like, "Your provider for the following long distance service is———". If that type of statement were made conspicuously and clearly stated on a consumer's phone bill before the itemized long distance charges, consumers would know if their long distance carrier had been changed.

Section 231 of the manager's amendment, entitled Obligations of Telephone Billing Agents, has language that differs from my proposed amendment. The language in the Manager's amendment is language that was suggested by the staff at the Federal Communications Commission.

I chose not to use the FCC language because my staff contacted several telephone companies and learned that if we used the FCC language several problems could be created which may result in potential increased costs to consumers. GAO has advised my staff that some of the requirements in the

provision as passed simply can't be done.

Because of time constraints we were unable to resolve the language in the provision. It is not our intention to increase consumers costs for telephone services in order to alert them about "slammers." If the current bill increases costs, and we believe it could, we need to modify this section so consumers are protected without having to pay for that protection. I sincerely hope we can continue to work to improve this section in the conference committee, if there is one, or before the bill is enacted into law, to make sure that we are not creating a burden on telecommunications carriers which will be passed on to consumers.●

COMMENDING THE CREDIT UNIONS FOR KIDS PROGRAM

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the Credit Unions for Kids program, an effort which began in my state of Oregon but which has since spread to more than 35 states across the nation and has served as an outstanding example of community service.

The Credit Unions for Kids program represents credit union employees and members in Oregon and Southwest Washington who have volunteered their resources and time in raising \$1.7 million to benefit the Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation. Last year, Oregon ranked first in the average dollars raised per credit union on a nationwide basis.

This is a day for celebration, not only for this donation, but for the generosity exhibited by a twelve-year fund-raising effort undertaken by the employees, families, and members of the credit unions in Oregon and Southwest Washington. This combined effort serves as an example to the businesses, communities and corporations in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the nation that anything is possible, even fulfilling the dream of a new children's hospital, one floor at a time.

For a moment, I would like to focus on the recipient of this donation—the new Doernbecher Children's Hospital which replaces a very old and outdated facility on the campus of Oregon Health Sciences University. This four-story, 250,000 square-foot facility houses 120 beds, including the medical/surgical units, a pediatric intensive care unit, the Kenneth W. Ford Cancer Center and the Doernbecher Neonatal Care Center. The hospital also has a 16-bed floor dedicated to inpatient and outpatient cancer treatment.

Perhaps what is most impressive about this facility is the focus on the need of the children and families whom it will serve. Designed by Doernbecher staff, parents and patients, the hospital has places for families to gather together, facilities for families who wish to cook their own meals, and patient rooms that have extra beds so that parents may stay with their children.

There are separate playrooms, outdoor play structures and a schoolroom. There are large and numerous windows welcoming natural light. There is artwork of birds and frogs, sculptures, painting, and poems.

One particular poem, "Naknuwisha" which appears in the waiting room of the hospital and is a Sahaptin term among the Yakima, meaning "to care for something precious, particularly children who need our help" was written by Kim Stafford in 1996 and serves as a constant reminder to all who enter the hospital that this is a place for children, and a place where healing and hope begin:

Naknuwisha
young friend,
be part of something old—
be home here in the great world
where rain wants to give you drink
where forest wants to be your house
where frogs say your name and your name
where wee birds carry your wishes far
and the sun reaches for your hand—
be home here
be healed
be well
be with us all
young friend.

Mr. President, this beautiful new hospital is the foundation of a commitment made by the community, families, friends, physicians, and by businesses who have given the gift of time and resources to turn a dream into a reality. I am proud to recognize the Credit Unions of Oregon and Washington, and to congratulate them on their contribution to this facility and this day of celebration of the opening of the Credit Unions for Kids floor of the Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

Congratulations, and thank you.●

NAN S. HUTCHINSON SENIOR HALL OF FAME HONOREES

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I am delighted to recognize and congratulate a group of exemplary citizens upon their induction into the 1998 Dr. Nan S. Hutchinson Senior Hall of Fame. These men and women have each given a great gift to their communities—they have given of themselves.

Arnold Abbott, 73, works everyday to fulfill his self-appointed mission to feed and help the homeless on the streets of Broward County. He also organized a small, dedicated core of volunteers to assist him in finding clothes, counseling and living arrangements, and to reunite the homeless with their family members.

Ruth Forbes, 76, began her work of community service in 1993 with the Area Agency on Aging's Advisory Council. In her time there, she has held the positions of Legislative Chair, Vice Chair, and Chairperson. In addition to improving the lives of those in her own age group, she also aids disadvantaged children.

Arnold & Joann Lanner, 76 and 79, respectively, work with the "I Am Somebody" program at elementary schools. This program is aimed at increasing

students' self esteem. In addition, they have raised over \$120,000 for the Hepburn Center, an intergenerational, community-based organization that provides after-school care and organizes activities for the elderly.

Evelyn Jones Lewis, 70, began her volunteer work when she was appointed to serve on the Florida Advisory Council on Aging. Since then, she has been active in urging Congress to pass legislation that would improve the ever-changing nutritional and transportation needs of the elderly.

Claire F. Mitchel, 76, is truly an asset to the elderly community because she promotes acceptance and celebration of the aging process. She promotes these values in work with organizations like the Rape Crisis Center, Women in Distress and the Older Women's League.

Estella Mae Moriarty, 62, exemplifies the true meaning of altruism by embracing foster-care children of all ages who have been abandoned, abused or neglected. Realizing that children need a permanent home in the developing stages of their lives, she co-founded the SOS Children's Village, which provides care and comfort for children in distress.

Lily Ann Olfern, 68, is involved with a telephone service bank to build a public safety building. Thanks to her many hours on the phone, the new facility will be opening in Davie next year. She also bags toys for children on Christmas, feeds the homeless on Thanksgiving, and teaches senior citizens how to avoid various scam operations.

Reuben Sperber, 90, came to Florida to retire. However, he has worked just as hard during his twenty years in this community as while he was in the workforce. Over the years, Reuben has served in his temple, given of his time at the Margate General Hospital, and become one of the most respected members of the Alzheimer's Family Center's Board of Directors.

Jacob Statemann, 76, has dedicated his time to the Southeast Focal Point Senior Center in Hollywood for over 10 years. At the Center he has taught classes ranging from current events to foreign language, and he has never hesitated to organize holiday events or assist other classes that need help. He also leads a senior choral group at HUD housing.

Ira Subin, 83, spends much of his time and efforts helping the Area Agency on Aging's Advisory Council plan social events and fundraisers. His advocacy for the Seniors for Seniors Dollar Drive, along with matching funds that the program has received from the state, has substantially increased the quality of services that the Area Agency on Aging can provide.

Mr. President, all of these outstanding seniors have diligently and selflessly given of their time and energy to make Broward County a better place for all its residents. Florida is very fortunate to have these inspiring senior citizens who give so much to our communities. I congratulate them today