

U.S. BUREAU OF MINES

• Mr. BENNETT. I wish to bring to the attention of the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee a matter of great importance to the State of Utah—the matter of the impending closure of U.S. Bureau of Mines facilities throughout the United States. The facility in Salt Lake City will be closed and 115 jobs will be lost. The Salt Lake City facility has conducted valuable research in environmental remediation and water research. While I am disappointed that the Senate acceded to House demands that the Bureau of Mines be closed, I also recognize the long-term benefits resulting from the earnest efforts to reduce the budget deficit and downsize the Federal Government. And in recent weeks, a silver lining emerged in the cloud surrounding the closure of the Salt Lake City facility. Mr. President, the chairman will be pleased to learn that efforts are underway right now to make preparations to privatize the Salt Lake City Bureau of Mines facility.

I would be remiss if I did not commend the staff of the Salt Lake City facility for their tremendous efforts to find a viable alternative which will prevent the technical expertise which has been accumulated for years from going to waste. On their own initiative, several employees have prepared a list of options in light of the pending closure. The most promising option and the one that the people of Utah are the most excited about, would permit the privatization of the Bureau of Mines facility. An interested group of investors and the employees of the Bureau of Mines have been in close contact in recent weeks to work out the details. Sufficient funding has been secured and should the facilities be transferred to the State of Utah, the State would in turn take the necessary steps to ensure the continued operation of these facilities under a consortium of private and State interests.

Mr. President, the chairman knows, there is legislative language in H.R. 1977 which grants the Secretary of Interior the authority to convey without reimbursement, the title and all interest of several Bureau of Mines facilities to various State university and government entities. While the Salt Lake City facility is not mentioned directly, the language permits transfer of such facilities as the Secretary deems appropriate. May I ask the chairman if such a transfer would be appropriate for the Salt Lake City facility?

Mr. GORTON. The Senator from Utah raises a very good point. Of course the transfer of the Salt Lake City facility would be appropriate. From what the Senator from Utah has explained to me, this is a unique opportunity to accomplish several goals at once. In keeping with our efforts to downsize the Federal Government, we can privatize certain government services, reducing the burden on the taxpayer while retaining essential research ca-

pabilities within the State of Utah. Such a transfer would permit the private sector, State university and the State of Utah to work in a cooperative effort to continue important environmental remediation research efforts.

Mr. BENNETT. Is it the chairman's understanding that this action should occur as soon as possible?

Mr. GORTON. It is my understanding that quick action is essential to the successful transfer of the facilities in Salt Lake City. While the fiscal year 1995 Interior Appropriations Act provides the Secretary of the Interior authority to transfer only certain Bureau facilities, both the House and Senate versions of the fiscal year 1996 Interior bill give the Secretary broader authority to transfer other facilities such as those in Salt Lake City. This authority was requested by the administration, is supported by both the House and Senate, and I have every reason to believe will be signed into law when action on the fiscal year 1996 bill is completed. I would urge the Bureau, the State of Utah, and other entities involved in the proposed transfer of the Salt Lake City facilities to work together in anticipation of this authority being granted. I will do everything in my power to see that the fiscal year 1996 bill is enacted in the coming weeks.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the chairman for his explanation as well as the excellent manner in which has managed this bill. •

PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, like most Americans, I am shocked and grief stricken by the brutal and senseless assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. My heart grieves not only for Israel and its people for the loss of their leader, but for all peace loving peoples in the Middle East. Most especially, my heart grieves for the family of Prime Minister Rabin: his wife Leah, their children and their grandchildren. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy are with them as they deal with the most personal of life's tragedies in the most public of circumstances.

Father, grandfather, husband, patriot, soldier, statesman, Nobel laureate and peacemaker, Prime Minister Rabin was a man of many parts. He dedicated his life to the service of his country and his life mirrored the evolution of his country. As a young man, his valor in the cause of freedom helped create the State of Israel. As an older man, he defended Israel in battle against enemies that threatened the existence of his homeland. As a senior statesman, he relentlessly pursued the cause of peace with Israel's adversaries with boldness and courage. Perhaps only a person hardened by the experiences of war could put aside anger over the past and undertake the risks of pursuing peace with hostile neighbors.

Mr. President, the world has lost a great leader, and we are all diminished

by his passing. He died before fulfilling his dream: peaceful coexistence with all Arab neighbors. The peace process must go forward. We, the world community, must continue and fulfill what he started. We cannot reward this act of extremism by halting or slowing negotiations. We must use this occasion to show all extremists capable of using violence that the killing of Prime Minister Rabin will not frustrate or stop the peace process. We must unite in this time of tragedy and pursue peace with renewed vigor and purpose.

Mr. President, when I heard the news of Prime Minister Rabin's tragic death, I was reminded of the death of another great martyr in the cause of Middle East peace, former President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. The similarities in their lives and the circumstances surrounding their deaths cannot be ignored. Both knew the hardships of war and understood the risks of peace. Both understood the need for honest dialogue with adversaries and the value of compromise. Both were slain at the hands of countrymen who were opposed to their making peace with former enemies. We would do well to learn from their boldness and courage.

Mr. President, Israel deserves our unqualified support at this time of national tragedy. We must make it clear to all who would be opponents and disrupters of peace that we intend to continue and fulfill what Prime Minister Rabin started: conciliation between Israel and its Arab neighbors. This legacy must not be lost with his senseless death.

Tzedek! Tzedek! Terdofel! Righteousness! Righteousness! you shall pursue!

ELI 1995 ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, last month the Environmental Law Institute [ELI] met here in Washington to bestow its highest honor, the Environmental Leadership Award, to a well known, internationally respected businessman, lawyer, public servant and Republican, Mr. William D. Ruckelshaus.

As many of us in this body know, the Environmental Law Institute has played a major role in shaping environmental policy and law, here in the United States and abroad. Over the past 26 years ELI has provided thoughtful environmental information, research, and policy analysis to a diverse constituency of government, business, and academic interests. Publisher of the Environmental Forum and the Environmental Law Reporter, ELI remains a resource and the place to go for answering the toughest environmental questions.

ELI's 1995 annual award dinner opened with an interesting keynote speech by Dr. Stephan Schmidheiny. Dr. Schmidheiny, chairman of UNOTEC AG, a multinational industrial group, founded the Business Council for Sustainable Development and