progress toward securing the funding necessary for the eventual deployment of a missile defense system capable of protecting the United States. Unfortunately, that act fell short by not explicitly directing that we deploy the missile defense system as soon as possible.

The majority leader, in close cooperation with Congress' National defense leadership, has crafted a proposal that achieves our nation's missile defense through prudent, incremental development of policies and force structures. To begin with, we would produce the system necessary to protect the United States from limited, unauthorized or accidental ballistic missile attacks. We then would augment that capability to defend our Nation against larger and more sophisticated ballistic missile threats. I am especially heartened that this bill allows for the development of the most promising anti-ballistic missile technologies, including sea-based systems such as Navy Upper Tier.

This bill assigns the Secretary of Defense the considerable task of reporting a missile defense development and deployment plan by March 15, 1997. However, I feel confident that Congress will be more than willing to assist him in the formulation of that plan. This can, and should, be a joint endeavor, Congress will fulfil its constitutional responsibility to raise and support our armed forces, while the Executive determines how best to deploy these forces.

At this time, Mr. President, I would like to expand upon section 5 of the act—that section regarding the ABM Treaty. Congress, through the Missile Defense Acts of 1991, 1994, and 1995 has repeatedly stated that the ABM Treaty does not, in any way, hinder the development of theater ballistic missile defenses. It has also called for a renegotiation of the ABM Treaty so as to allow the development of more robust national missile defense systems.

Unfortunately, this country has abandoned the initiatives of the previous administration to cooperatively develop with the Russians a protective global missile defense systems. An insistence on keeping America vulnerable to attack, and a dogmatic faith in the deterrence of nuclear war through mutual assured destruction will no longer prevent missile attacks upon the United States.

Mr. President, the times have changed since the ratification of the ABM Treaty. Our primary threats no longer come from a general nuclear attack by thousands of Soviet weapons—an attack that would probably overwhelm a ballistic missile defense system. Today our immediate threats come from rogue, unintentional, or unauthorized attacks of limited size and duration. The limitations of the ABM Treaty fail to address these new threats, and I believe, are incapable of being modified so as to address them. The administration has steadfastly stood by the antiquated strategies of the ABM Treaty, and I am afraid it is unwilling to address the threats posed to America by continued reliance on that treaty.

Nonetheless, Mr. President, this Congress continues to be willing to work with the administration to address our missile defense needs. I believe the urging contained in section 5 represent our last, best hope of adequately modifying the ABM Treaty, and protecting America from ballistic missile attack. The Treaty may be fundamentally unable to address the threats we face today. It may be best to renounce it in its totality. Such a clear break with previous policy may not be feasible in this Congress. But it must be clear that this Congress worries that its urging and calls have fallen on deaf ears in the Executive, and that we believe the United States cannot afford to wait much longer. Therefore, I particularly support the provision in this bill that calls for withdrawal from the ABM Treaty if amendments allowing adequate national missile defenses are not agreed to within 1 year. I hope this is sufficient warning as to the extent of congressional frustration.

The majority leader has displayed the foresight and perceptiveness critical for developing effective national security strategies. There can be no doubt that a fully operational and technologically capable ballistic missile defense system is crucial to that strategy. Nor can there be any doubt that antiquated treaties which fail to adapt to vastly different national security threats must be either changed or discarded.

The majority leader's bill constitutes a reasonable and moderate attempt to bridge the broad philosophical gap that exists between Congress and the administration. We should not let this opportunity be lost. If concerns with the ABM Treaty prevent this bill from becoming law, then I believe it may be time to nullify that treaty.●

TRIBUTE TO CARL SIMPSON WHILLOCK

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a true statesman. Carl Simpson Whillock was born on May 7, 1926, in the small town of Scotland, AR. In the nearly 70 years since, he has excelled in the realms of politics, academia, and private business.

Carl's desire to serve the people of Arkansas surfaced at an early age. Just 2 years after receiving both his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Carl began a distinguished career of public service as a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives. He came to Washington in 1955 to serve as the executive assistant to the Honorable J.W. Trimble, U.S. Congressman from the third district of Arkansas.

While working in Representative Trimble's office, Carl Whillock earned a law degree from George Washington University in 1960. After a 3-year stint in private law practice, he served as prosecuting attorney for the 14th Judicial District of Arkansas before beginning his career in academia at the University of Arkansas.

Carl Whillock was the director for university relations and an assistant to the president during his 7½ years at Arkansas. He also taught part-time in the political science department.

In 1964, Carl Whillock left academics to run my campaign for Governor of Arkansas, and I am happy to say he worked with me in the Governor's office for a short time after my election. But Carl soon returned to his beloved University of Arkansas as the vice president for governmental relations and public affairs.

Carl's many years of work in the academic community were rewarded in 1978 when he was asked to become the president of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

For the past 16 years, Carl has been the president of Arkansas Electric Cooperative and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. As he prepares to retire on the 1st of April, his colleagues remember him as a trusted friend, a revered mentor, and a gentle, gracious boss.

Carl Whillock's management style has been praised throughout his many years in various positions of authority. He believes in hiring good people, and then giving them the space to do their jobs. His employees operate effectively and efficiently because Carl makes them feel comfortable and encourages them to bring their own style to the workplace.

By all accounts, Carl Simpson Whillock is a success. The very mention of his name brings a smile to the faces of those who know him, and the words gentleman and good guy flow from their lips.

After retirement, I am sure Carl will remain active as a member of the University of Arkansas' Board of Trustees. He has never been one to sit still for very long. He is always there to lend a hand. As Dennis Robertson, a longtime friend and employee says, ''Carl approaches life in a simple way. He does not get mad. He is warm, caring and above all sincere. We can all learn a lot from him.''

Carl Simpson Whillock—a true asset to the State of Arkansas. On behalf of all the people you have touched over these many years, congratulations on your retirement.●

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I would like to join with my colleagues, and with so many Americans—both of Greek and non-Greek descent—in celebrating March 25, Greek Independence Day. I am pleased to have been an original cosponsor of Senate Resolution 219, a bipartisan resolution that designated today ''Greek Independence

Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.'' That resolution was submitted by our distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER, and it was agreed to by the Senate unanimously on March 6.

Today commemorates the 175th anniversary of the beginning of Greece's struggle for independence from the Ottoman Turkish Empire. After 400 years of foreign domination, and after 11 years of struggle against the despotic rule of the Ottoman Turks, Greece's independence was a cataclysmic event in European Affairs. At that time, outside of Britain and France, Europe was composed mainly of autocratic empires and states whose borders had little relation to their composite nationalities.

The astounding accomplishment of the Greek people in achieving their independence from the vast Ottoman Empire acted as a catalyst in transforming the aspirations of Europeans across the continent. Greece's independence from the Turks was, in many ways, even a greater feat than the other great struggle for national independence 45 years earlier: the American Revolutionary War. Although the Greek people received support from many other countries, particularly from the United States, they enjoyed no advantage similar to a protective ocean or the active assistance of an ally such as France.

During the last 175 years, the ideals of national independence and democracy, which were first expounded by the ancient Greeks, have spread widely throughout Europe and so much of the rest of the world. Greece's achievement of independence helped to spread not only the belief in the inherent right of national independence, but the belief that it is possible for a nation to assert its rights, despite seemingly impossible odds.

Mr. President, it is appropriate to remember the meaning of March 25, which remains a powerful symbol of the ideals that America holds dear and upon which our own Nation was founded. But this is a symbol not only for the Greek and American people to celebrate. It should also be a day of commemoration for the many young, struggling democracies around the globe, as well as for the numerous nations and peoples still yearning to be free.●

PRODUCT LIABILITY FAIRNESS ACT

● Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I support the conference report of the Product Liability Fairness Act.

This is a historic day in the effort to enact meaningful civil justice reform. For the first time in more than two decades, the Senate and the House of Representatives have debated and passed product liability reform.

Product liability reform was part of the Contract With America. According to the Luntz Research Co. survey released in March 1995, ''83 percent of Americans believe that our liability lawsuit system has major problems and needs serious improvements.''

Now, all that remains is for the President to do his part to make product liability reform a reality.

I commend the efforts of my colleagues from Washington and West Virginia, Senators GORTON and ROCKEFELLER, for their 15-year effort to bring needed reform to the Nation's product liability laws.

Historically, America's economic strength has been in manufacturing, where much of our wealth has been created. It is essential that the Congress move to protect our Nation's manufacturing base from unreasonable litigation. Although product liability law is a small area of tort law, it is also a critical area in which America is losing its competitive edge.

Mr. President, the conference report contains many important provisions which were contained in the original Gorton-Rockefeller bill. The alcohol and drug defense would create a complete defense created if the claimant was more than 50-percent responsible for his or her injury. The bill also provides for a reduction in damages by the percentage of the harm resulting from claimant's misuse or alteration of a product.

The bill provides for a punitive damages cap that limits recovery to $250,000 or 2 times compensatory damages, whichever is greater. Exceptions are established for small business—under 25 employees—and individuals with a net worth of less than $500,000. With these two exceptions, the limit is $250,000 or 2 times compensatory, which ever is lesser.

The bill's statute of limitations requires that suits be filed within 2 years after the harm and the cause of the harm was discovered, or should have been discovered.

The bill provides for joint and several liability for all economic damages, but several liability only for noneconomic damages.

The bill provides that biomaterial suppliers who furnish raw materials, but are not manufacturers or sellers, are protected from liability when the supplier is not negligent. Further, a product seller can be held strictly liable as a manufacturer only in two circumstances: where the claimant can't get service of process on the manufacturer, or where the judgment is unenforceable against the manufacturer, as is the case when the manufacturer is judgment-proof.

During the product liability floor debate, I offered three amendments. Amendment 1, which passed by a vote of 60 to 39, struck out provisions in the original Senate bill that penalized, with attorney fees and court costs, only defendants, but not plaintiffs who refused to enter into ADR. Under State law, ADR provisions are equally applicable to plaintiffs and defendants, and we should keep it that way.

Amendment 2, which was tabled by a vote of 56 to 44, would have limited non-economic damages to $500,000 in medical malpractice cases. Amendment 3—which was tabled by a vote of 65 to 35—would have limited attorneys' contingency fees to 25 percent of the first $250,000. The amendment also provided that 25 percent of a punitive damage award is rebuttably presumed to be ethical and reasonable.

Although the House bill had both a non-economic damages cap of $250,000 in medical malpractice cases and an attorney-fees limitation provision, neither of these two provisions were included in the conference report. I will continue to work to see that these provisions are enacted into law. However, one important provision from the House version that was included by the conferees shortens the statute of repose from 20 to 15 years, thus reducing the time period during which a claimant may bring a product-liability action after taking delivery of a durable good.

The conferees also limited the ''additur'' provision contained in the original Senate bill. Thus, in a case of egregious conduct, a judge may raise the claimant's punitive damage recovery no higher than the amount proposed by the jury, unless State law provides otherwise.

I want to note some other important provisions contained in the House bill that unfortunately were dropped by the Senate-House conferees. The ''loser pays'' provision, which would discourage frivolous lawsuits, was dropped. The ''FDA defense,'' which would prohibit the imposition of punitive damages upon a manufacturer of a product that has received FDA approval, was also eliminated. And, as I mentioned earlier, the conferees also dropped the $250,000 cap on non-economic damages in medical malpractice actions. Moreover, the conferees dropped provisions that would have extended the punitive damage cap and joint and several liability reform to all civil cases. I regret that these provisions are not in our bill.

In spite of the narrow scope of the conference report, President Clinton has indicated that he will veto this bill. And this is despite the fact that back in August 1991, Governor Clinton was leader of the National Governor's Association when it approved—unanimously—Federal product-liability reform. Also as Governor, Mr. Clinton twice supported NGA resolutions calling for product-liability reform.

The President's track record on this issue caused the Washington Post, in a March 14 editorial, to predict that the bill should be ''accepted by both houses and signed by the President.'' The veto decision prompted another Post editorial 5 days later, this one entitled, ''Trial Lawyers Triumph.''

Mr. President, I could not agree more, and it is a real shame.

The limited reform in this bill will be an important first step, but only a first