with whom FPI would be required to compete.

Mr. President, I intended to offer S. 1797 as an amendment to either the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill or the omnibus appropriations bill. Unfortunately, the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill was never brought to the Senate floor, and the omnibus appropriations bill was brought up under an agreement which permitted no amendments. This parliamentary situation made it impossible for me to bring S. 1797 before the Senate for its consideration.

I want to assure Federal Prison Industries, however, that this issue is not going to go away. The issue is too important to the taxpayers, and too important to the many small businesses adversely affected by unfair competition from Federal Prison Industries, to be ignored.

Earlier today, I received a letter transmitting the administration's formal position on S. 1797. This letter clearly indicates the administration's agreement that the process by which Federal agencies purchase products from Federal Prison Industries needs to be reformed. That letter states:

The Administration favors reform of Federal Prison Industries to improve its customer service, pricing, and delivery while not endangering its work program for Federal inmates. . . . The Administration will present reform proposals for the House and Senate Judiciary Committees in the next session of Congress.

I ask that a copy of this letter appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately following my remarks.

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

(See Exhibit 1.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, with this letter, the administration has promised to join us in a serious reevaluation of the process by which Federal Prison Industries sells its products to other Federal agencies. The heart of that process is, of course, FPI's mandatory source status. The administration has made a commitment to present us with a reform proposal in the next Congress, and I intend to hold the administration to that commitment.

Mr. President, I do not consider myself to be an enemy of Federal Prison Industries. I am a supporter of the idea of putting Federal inmates to work. A strong prison work program not only reduces inmate idleness and prison disruption, but can also help build a work ethic, provide job skills, and enable prisoners to return to product society upon their release.

However, I believe that a prison work program must be conducted in a manner that does not unfairly eliminate the jobs of hard-working citizens who have not committed crimes. FPI will be able to achieve this result only if it diversifies its product lines and avoids the temptation to build its work force by continuing to displace private sector jobs in its traditional lines of work.

We need to have jobs for prisoners, but it is unfair and wasteful to allow FPI to designate whose jobs it will take, and when it will take them. Competition will be better for FPI, better for the taxpayer, and better for working men and women around the country. I look forward to working with the administration in the next Congress to make reform of Federal Prison Industries a reality.

EXHIBIT 1

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, October 3, 1996.

Hon. CARL LEVIN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEVIN: During consideration of the FY 97 appropriations bill for Commerce, Justice and State, you had originally proposed a floor amendment incorporating your bill, S. 1797, regarding the Federal Prison Industries. At the time, the Administration developed a statement regarding that amendment. Since the amendment was never introduced, no statement was ever sent.

At your request, we are providing you in this letter with the statement that would have been sent. It reads as follows:

''The Administration favors reform of Federal Prison Industries to improve its customer service, pricing, and delivery while not endangering its work program for Federal inmates. The appropriations process is not the best way to address this issue. The Administration will present reform proposals for the House and Senate Judiciary Committees in the next session of Congress.''

Very truly yours,

STEVEN KELMAN,
Administrator.

ASPEN STRATEGY GROUP RECOMMENDS MEASURES TO REDUCE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION THREAT

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, our Nation faces many national security challenges in the post-cold war era. I can think of no greater challenge than the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Aspen Strategy Group, which I chair along with Ken Dam, is committed to providing a bipartisan forum within which to address this and other national security concerns.

In August of this year, the Aspen Strategy Group, which included top U.S. national security officials and experts, met in Colorado to discuss our Nation's proliferation challenges and policies. I believe the observations from these meetings, as well as the resulting ideas and recommendations, will enhance our Nation's understanding of these important issues.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Aspen Strategy Group's recommendations related to the threat of nuclear proliferation.

There being no objection, the material was order to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BIPARTISAN ASPEN STRATEGY GROUP RECOMMENDS PRACTICAL MEASURES TO REDUCE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION THREATS

The Aspen Strategy Group (ASG), chaired by Senator Sam Nunn and Ken Dam, met in Aspen, Colorado on 10–15 August to examine post-Cold War threats presented by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Several top U.S. officials, including the Secretary of Defense, attended the ASG meeting, along with leading experts on weapons proliferation from the United States and other countries. The group reached a general (although not necessarily unanimous) consensus on several points.

The ASG believes that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constitutes one of the greatest threats the United States faces in the post-Cold War era. Accordingly, controlling WMD proliferation is among our top national security policy priorities.

Efforts to control WMD proliferation provide a mixture of good news and bad:

Important progress has been achieved in restraining—even rolling back—nuclear proliferation. The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty has been extended indefinitely. The nuclear weapons formerly controlled by Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan have been consolidated in Russian hands. South Africa has voluntarily dismantled its nuclear arsenal. Brazil and Argentina terminated their nuclear efforts, and North Korea has frozen its weapons program. And, most recently, a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has been approved.

But new threats have also appeared, and they appear particularly difficult to control. Russia continues to present a ''loose nukes'' problem. Moreover, the dangers of biological and chemical weapons proliferation have become more acute. Dual use BW and CW technology is widely available, and such weapons activities are relatively easy to conceal. Subnational groups as well as states have sought (successfully in the case of the Aum Shinrikyo cult in Japan) to acquire such capabilities. Millenarian or terrorist groups, moreover, may not be susceptible to the rational calculus of deterrents.

The Aspen Strategy Group believes that, while there is no ''silver bullet'' with which to eliminate threats of WMD proliferation, there are a variety of steps that should be taken to lessen current risks. These include:

1) Enhance Nunn-Lugar Legislation. The Nunn-Lugar program was designed to improve U.S. security by preventing hostile parties from acquiring the nuclear weapons, materials, and technology of the former Soviet Union. It has achieved demonstrable results. Yet Nunn-Lugar funds have been targeted for cuts by congressional appropriations committees, and critics cite Russian policies vis-a-vis Chechnya, Bosnia or the Middle East as grounds for such cuts.

The ASG agreed that the Nunn-Lugar legislation is not a favor to Moscow. Rather, it serves the security interests of the United States, and it deserves to be fully funded. The group urges the Administration to exert greater efforts to marshall support for this legislation, and enjoin Congress to extend to it the financial support its success to date warrants.

2) Ratification of the Chemicals Weapons Convention. Congressional ratification of the CWC is long overdue. While this treaty will not eliminate all CW threats, it does provide significant benefits—not least the assurance that foreign governments will be obligated to monitor terrorist threats.

Some complain about the treaty's enforcement provisions. But the CWC will soon achieve the ratification by the 65 governments that are required for it to go into effect. The ability of the United States to propose modifications and qualifications to the enforcement provisions depends on its being one of the countries ratifying its adoption. Staying out of the treaty, moreover, could place our chemical firms at a commercial disadvantage.

Others are concerned that the CWC will not cover the most critical cases, i.e., those in which national governments are determined to develop chemical weapons and seek to evade controls. This may be true, but dealing with these cases will require the effort of international coalitions, and the cooperative process of enacting the CWC will facilitate the establishment of such coalitions. The treaty would also establish international norms for compliance and monitoring, providing objective goals for these coalitions. In light of these benefits, the ASG urges the Congress expeditiously to ratify the CWC.

(3) Improve federal, state and local capabilities to respond to CW and BW attacks. If a foreign state or terrorist group utilized CW or BW attacks against our people, the first authorities on the scene will be state and local authorities. Thus, cooperation between federal and local authorities is more important than ever, as is cooperation between domestic law enforcement agencies and national intelligence organizations.

The ASG believes the United States, building on the base established by the Nunn-Lugar legislation and subsequent Nunn-Lugar-Domenici amendments, should undertake a more comprehensive effort to develop and coordinate policies for dealing with BW and CW threats. The initial agenda for such a program should include:

The development of coordinated interagency and federal/state/local government plans for responding to a CW and/or BW attack, including the sharing of information, personnel and equipment;

The review of statutes and other legal institutions necessary for effective cooperation between different levels of government on this issue;

The promotion of cooperation between government authorities in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries to develop measures to monitor materials that could be used to create chemical and biological agents.

(4) Review U.S. policy of ''no first use.'' With the end of the Cold War and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact, one pillar underlying our reluctance to commit to ''no first use'' of nuclear weapons has disappeared. During the Gulf War the Bush Administration warned Saddam Hussein that any use of chemical or biological weapons would provoke a massive U.S. response—allowing the inference that nuclear weapons might be used. While ASG members held different views about the desirability of translating the Gulf War declaratory policy into a general principle of U.S. policy, they agreed on the importance and timeliness of an official review of this issue.

(5) Preserve a full-court defense against Iraqi efforts to acquire WMD. Iraq continues to develop weapons of mass destruction in defiance of the international community. Diplomatically, it seeks to initiate United Nations monitoring and remove sanctions. The ASG believes that we must not compromise on the UN enforcement of sanctions on Iraq or its efforts to monitor Iraqi WMD activities. The maintenance of adequate U.S. forces to ensure Iraq's compliance remains essential.

(6) The role of the media. The ASG urges that the media consider its own role in dealing with issues related to weapons of mass destruction. The widespread availability of sensitive information is a significant factor in the ability of nations and subnational groups to develop WMD. The effectiveness of terrorist groups to employ such weapons for coercion may depend on media reactions. And, if a real or suspected CW or BW attach should occur, the media response (if it stimulated public panic) could greatly complicate the efficacy of official actions.

These are delicate issues, for they raise questions about civil liberties and freedom of the press. Government officials must be particularly sensitive to these matters in their efforts to address the problem. Yet the media must begin to develop standards for responding to reports of terrorist WMD threats or attacks. Some discussion between representatives of the media and government officials about how the government and the press deal with each other in a crisis and how press freedoms can be reconciled with a need for public order and security would be timely and relevant.

TRIBUTE TO MARV TEIXEIRA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of Nevada's leaders, Mayor Marv Teixeira. For the citizens of Carson City, he has been a determined and tireless fighter whose efforts and achievements will be appreciated for generations to come.

For 7 years, Marv has served as the mayor of Nevada's capital city. With characteristic good humor and affability, Mayor Teixeira has fought hard on behalf of the city and State he loves. His devoted leadership has made the town he calls ''Nevada's best kept secret'' an even better place.

Mayor Teixeira has been instrumental in bringing new companies and new jobs to Carson City. These efforts have helped change the face of Carson City to a thriving manufacturing town with old west charm. Mayor Teixeira has gracefully overseen a city with a growing population and has devoted himself to easing Carson's downtown traffic through securing funding for the Carson City bypass. His accomplishments as mayor can be seen all over the city, from building the centralized city hall complex, the senior citizen's center, and the Pony Express Pavilion to instituting a million dollar downtown beautification project. He activated public access television in Carson City and found funding for a $19 million public safety complex.

It is my pleasure to speak today in tribute to Marv Teixeira and congratulate him on his many years of outstanding public service. For the excellence with which he performed his job, Nevada owes Marv Teixeira a debt of gratitude.

COMMENDING GAO COMPTROLLER GENERAL CHARLES A. BOWSHER

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of our Nation's most dedicated and loyal public servants, Comptroller General of the United States Charles A. Bowsher.

On September 30 of this year, Charles Bowsher will complete his term of office as Comptroller General of the United States and head of the General Accounting Office.

In 1981, President Reagan appointed Mr. Bowsher to a 15-year term as Comptroller General of the United States. This appointment capped a long and distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Bowsher was associated with Arthur Andersen & Co. Between 1967 and 1971, he interrupted his 25-year career at Arthur Andersen to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management.

During those years, Mr. President, I had the privilege of working with Chuck Bowsher in my capacity as Under Secretary—and later Secretary—of the Navy. His critical work as Assistant Secretary earned him the Distinguished Public Service Awards from both the Navy and the Department of Defense.

Mr. President, the General Accounting Office, or GAO as we call it, is one of the least heralded agencies of the Federal Government. Congress created the GAO in 1921 with the mandate to audit, evaluate, or investigate virtually all Federal Government operations—wherever they might take place. In other words, the GAO serves as a watchdog over the taxpayers' money—guarding against fraud, abuse, and inefficient allocation of public funds.

In its oversight capacity, the GAO produces in-depth reports at the specific request of congressional committees, or on its own initiative. Recently, GAO reports have served as a nonpartisan factual basis for congressional debate on issues ranging from health care reform and the savings and loan crisis to the Federal budget deficit and efforts to reinvent government. Meanwhile, the agency continues to monitor high-risk government activities that could lead to major losses from waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

Under Chuck Bowsher's leadership, the GAO has saved taxpayers billions and billions of dollars. GAO recommendations assist Members of Congress and the executive branch in making difficult decisions on the effective use of scarce Federal funds. Over the past decade, Congress has implemented numerous GAO recommendations—including budget reductions, cost avoidances, appropriations deferrals, and revenue enhancements—totaling more than $100 billion. Each year, the agency issues more than 1,000 written reports, and its officials testify as many as 300 times before congressional committees.

In short, Mr. President, under Chuck Bowsher's leadership the GAO has done an outstanding job of protecting the taxpayers' interests while promoting sound fiscal management practices throughout the Federal Government. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring a truly exceptional public servant who has served this Nation with integrity, dedication, honor, and dilligence—the Honorable Charles A. Bowsher.

ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY IN THE PIPELINE BILL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, last Thursday, the Senate passed by unanimous consent S. 1505, the Accountable Pipeline Safety and Partnership Act. I'm