

While Jim has been a journalist for a half century, his interest and employment in newspapers actually dates back to 1941, when he began his career as a News-Herald delivery boy. Jim wasn't even a teenager yet, and the paper cost 6 cents for twice-weekly delivery. Jim went on to graduate from Willoughby Union High School and Kent State University, and returned to the News-Herald after receiving his degree in June 1950. By then, Jim had shed the title of delivery boy and begun his career as a cub reporter.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly don't wish to draw undue attention to Jim's age, but I think it is worth noting other important milestones of 1950 so folks have some perspective about how long Jim has been a working journalist. The same year Jim became a reporter, Peanuts debuted, Alger Hiss was convicted, the first telephone answering machine was invented, Diner's Club became the first credit card, CBS began broadcasting in color, the first leak-proof ballpoint pen was introduced by PaperMate, Paul Harvey began broadcasting nationally on radio, and Silly Putty was introduced. Back then, it cost 3 cents to mail a letter, gas was 20 cents a gallon, and the average income was about \$3,200 a year. My guess is Jim made less than this, however, as journalists certainly don't enter the field for generous paychecks.

Jim stayed at the News-Herald until 1952, when he was drafted for a two-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army. After serving his country with honor, Jim returned to the field of journalism and eventually made it back to his home, the News-Herald. Jim has worked tirelessly since then and quickly ascended to the brass ring of newspaper management. He has been editor of the News-Herald since 1967, and has overseen its tremendous growth and development.

Over the last 50 years, Jim has received many prestigious awards for his writing, and his weekly column is a must-read for anyone who cares about what's happening in the news. He also is about the most prolific commentary writer you're likely to find, and has made his mark by offering common-sense solutions to state, local and national problems. As great as Jim's accomplishments are in journalism, however, they pale in comparison to what he has done for our local communities. As editor of the News-Herald, Jim has had a constant presence in the communities the paper covers, and has always been actively involved in civic and philanthropic activities. He is respected by all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, I feel honored to have known Jim Collins all the years I've been a public servant, and even a few before then. He is one of the most kind, fair, humble and caring men I've ever met. He is an exceptional journalist and an even better man. His word is his honor. On behalf of the 19th Congressional District of Ohio, I congratulate Jim Collins on his 50 years in journalism, and wish him well as he continues to devote his life to the profession he loves so dearly.

AIR FORCE MEMORIAL EXTENSION ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Air Force Memorial Extension Act. In December of 1993 the President signed into law authorization for the Air Force Memorial Foundation to establish an Air Force Memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Air Force. This memorial was to comply with the provisions of the Commemorative Works Act.

Among other things, the Commemorative Works Act provides that the legislative authority for the commemorative work will expire at the end of the seven-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of such authority, unless a construction permit has been issued. To date, no construction permit has been issued. Due to unforeseen lawsuits, all work, including the fund raising for the memorial was put on hold for approximately 3 years. The lawsuits have been settled and work is ready to re-commence regarding the memorial. However, due to the delay and the 7-year requirement of the Commemorative Works Act, time is about to run out. In fact, the authority will expire on December 2 of this year unless Congress passes a time extension.

With considerable work already accomplished and the lawsuits settled the memorial needs to be completed. Thus, this bill would extend authority to the Air Force Memorial Foundation to complete the well-deserved memorial. The authority would extend until 2005 giving the Foundation the time to fulfill the final construction and dedication of the Air Force Memorial.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Consumer Product Safety Commission Enhanced Enforcement Act of 2000", a bill intended to improve consumer safety by increasing compliance with existing requirements to report hazards when they are known. The legislation would increase the civil and criminal penalties that the CPSC can impose upon firms that do not inform the Commission when they have sold a product that could pose a substantial hazard to consumers. The legislation would also help make some product recalls more effective.

The CPSC is the government agency that makes sure cribs, toys, and other products in your home are safe, and recalls them when they're not. The CPSC oversees the safety of 15,000 different kinds of consumer products. Each year there are more than 29 million injuries and about 22,000 deaths related to consumer products.

Current law provides that if companies have information that one of their products could

have a serious safety defect, they are required to report that to the government. Unfortunately, some companies are not obeying the law. The CPSC estimates that in half of the most serious cases they deal with, the company has failed to report injuries. Instead, the information comes to the attention of the agency from its own investigators, from consumers, or tragically, from hospital emergency room reports or death certificates.

When companies don't report, dangerous products that could have been recalled or modified remain on store shelves. They continue to be sold and they stay in consumers' homes where they can cause serious injury.

Some consumers pay a very high price for a company's failure to report.

For example, a 3-year-old girl died while playing on her swing. Her grandfather was cutting weeds in the yard using a weed trimmer with a replacement head that was made with a metal chain. The end link broke off the chain and it flew through the air as if it were a piece of deadly shrapnel—travelling 240 miles an hour. It hit his granddaughter in the temple, penetrated her skull and killed her.

The company didn't tell the CPSC about this death, nor did they tell the CPSC about the 40 other serious injuries from chains breaking. The CPSC was forced to do its own investigation and recalled the product nationwide in May.

Such failures to report result in tragic losses of life and limb that are avoidable and preventable if compliance with reporting were higher.

Under current law, the CPSC can fine companies for violating the law, but the amount of the fine is limited by statute to a level that does not sufficiently deter violations. Under current law, companies can face criminal penalties for violating consumer product safety laws, but they are only misdemeanors. Under current law, in any recall, companies provide a repair, replacement or refund for defective products. In most cases, the CPSC can find a good solution to the problem for consumers. But in rare cases where the product is older and has been on the market for many years, the company sometimes elects a refund that is much too small to even catch consumers' attention, so the dangerous product stays on the market.

To remedy these deficiencies, the legislation would: Eliminate the cap on civil penalties for violations of product safety laws.

Under current law, the CPSC cannot assess more than \$1,650,000 for a related series of violations against a company that knowingly violates consumer product safety laws. The legislation would eliminate this maximum civil penalty. Many of the cases in which the Commission seeks civil penalties involve very large corporations that can easily absorb a \$1.65 million fine. More substantial civil penalties would provide a needed incentive for those companies to notify CPSC of defective products so that the agency can take timely action to protect consumers. Other agencies have civil penalty authority with no "cap" on the amount of the penalty for a related series of violations, including the Federal Trade Commission.

Increase the penalty for a "knowing and willful" criminal violation of product safety laws from a misdemeanor to a felony and eliminate the requirement that the agency give notice to the company that is criminally violating the law.