investment is more secure and more jobs are available.

But it takes a lot more taxpayer dollars to build infrastructure.

It takes investment in human capital, too, and the same ''invest now or pay more later'' logic should apply. There are some existing strong partnerships between the public and private sectors and organized labor which have wisely adopted a goal-oriented strategy. Prevailing wage laws—created by the federal, state and local governments, in partnership with the building trades and business—have attracted skilled labor with the expertise and experience to complete projects on time and within budget. The Santa Monica Freeway is a shining example; it was reconstructed to the highest quality standards, ahead of schedule and under budget in the aftermath of the Northridge earthquake. Public infrastructure projects have also expanded career opportunities for young people. Some of the best technical training in our region is available through the organized building trades. The facilities are first rate, and the curriculum is fully up-to-date and forward looking.

Against the strong arguments for pay-now versus pay more later, those in the Washington beltway who would eliminate the Davis Bacon Act are shortsighted in their thinking. According to a recent study by the University of Utah Economics Department, in the nine states which have repealed prevailing wage laws, the pay more later rule has kicked in, with the net result being reduced wages for construction workers, increased workplace injuries and deaths, a decline in job training, a loss of tax revenue to the state and increased cost overruns.

Retaining the Davis-Bacon Act and our prevailing wage laws is critical to the public private partnership which has worked so well in developing our public infrastructure and the highly skilled workforce upon which it depends. In so doing, we can continue to build great projects, produce the good paying jobs and careers our economy must have, and save millions of taxpayer dollars in the process. And we can all rest a little easier knowing that the next time the earth moves, we will still have skilled contractors and construction workers needed to get the job done.●

KOWTOW: THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BOW TO BEIJING

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, recently, Lorna Hahn had an op-ed piece in the Washington Post titled, ''Kowtow: The State Department's Bow to Beijing.''

What she says there makes eminent sense.

I cannot understand our continuing to give a cold shoulder to President Lee of Taiwan.

I trust our Government will make its decision known soon that it will do the responsible thing and let President Lee come to our country. He is a freely elected president of a multiparty country with a free press. We should not give him the cold shoulder because another nation without these human rights objects.

I ask that the Lorna Hahn item be printed in the RECORD at this point.

The item follows:

KOWTOW—THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BOW TO BEIJING.

(By Lorna Hahn)

Lee Teng-hui, president of the Republic of China on Taiwan, wishes to accept an honorary degree from Cornell University, where he earned his PhD in agronomy.

Last year, when Cornell made the same offer, Lee was refused entry into the United States because Beijing belligerently reminded the State Department that granting a visa to a Taiwanese leader would violate the principle of ''One China.'' (Cornell subsequently sent an emissary to Taipei for a substitute ceremony.) This year, on Feb. 9, Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord told a congressional hearing that our government ''will not reverse the policies of six administrations of both parties.''

It is high time it did. The old policy was adopted at a time when China and Taiwan were enemies, Taiwan's government claimed to represent all of China, and Beijing's leaders would never dream of meeting cordially with their counterparts from Taipei. Today, things are very different.

Upon assuming office in 1988, Lee dropped all pretense of ever reconquering the mainland and granted that the Communists do indeed control it. Since then, he has eased tensions and promoted cooperation with the People's Republic of China through the Lee Doctrine, the pragmatic, flexible approach through which he (1) acts independently without declaring independence, which would provoke Chinese wrath and perhaps an invasion; (2) openly recognizes the PRC government and its achievements and asks that it reciprocate, and (3) seeks to expand Taiwan's role in the world while assuring Beijing that he is doing so as a fellow Chinese who has their interests at heart as well.

Lee claims to share Beijing's dream of eventual reunification—provided it is within a democratic, free-market system. Meanwhile, he wants the PRC—and the world—to accept the obvious fact that China has since 1949 been a divided country, like Korea, and that Beijing has never governed or represented Taiwan's people. Both governments, he believes, should be represented abroad while forging ties that could lead to unity.

To this end he has fostered massive investments in the mainland, promoted extensive and frequent business, cultural, educational and other exchanges, and offered to meet personally with PRC President Jiang Zemin to discuss further cooperation. His policies are so well appreciated in Beijing—which fears the growing strength of Taiwan's pro-independence movement—that Jiang recently delivered a highly conciliatory speech to the Taiwanese people in which he suggested that their leaders exchange visits.

If China's leaders are willing to welcome Taiwan's president to Beijing, why did their foreign ministry, on March 9, once again warn that ''we are opposed to Lee Teng-hui visiting the United States in any form''? Because Beijing considers the ''Taiwan question'' to be an ''internal affair'' in which, it claims, the United States would be meddling if it granted Lee a visa.

But Lee does not wish to come here in order to discuss the ''Taiwan question'' or other political matters, and he does not seek to meet with any American officials. He simply wishes to accept an honor from a private American institution, and perhaps discuss with fellow Cornell alumni the factors that have contributed to Taiwan's—and China's—outstanding economic success.

President Clinton has yet to make the final decision regarding Lee's visit. As Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.) recently stated: ''It seems to me illogical not to allow President Lee on a private basis to go back to his alma mater.'' As his colleague Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.) added: ''It is embarrassing for many of us to think that, after encouraging the people and government on Taiwan to democratize, which they have, [we forbid President Lee] to return to the United States * * * to receive an honorary degree.''●

ETNA SWIMMER WINS GOLD IN PAN AMERICAN GAMES

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara (B.J.) Bedford of Etna, NH for capturing three gold medals for swimming in the women's 100 meter and 200 meter backstroke, and as a member of the 4 x 100 meter medley relay, at the Pan American Games held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, March 11 to 26, 1995.

The U.S. Olympic committee sent 800 athletes, including 159 current Olympians, to compete in the 12th Pan Am Games—its largest contingent ever. B.J.'s performance was remarkable and one for which she can be very proud.

B.J. has not only excelled at the Pan Am Games, but she was the bronze medalist in the 100 meter in the 1994 World Championships and is the 11th fastest woman in history in the 100 meter backstroke. At the 1994 Goodwill Games, she won two gold medals in the 200 meter backstroke and 400 meter medley relay and a silver medal in the 100 meter backstroke. She is a three-time U.S. national champion. Currently, B.J. is training for the 1996 Olympics in Gainsville, FL.

B.J. is the daughter of Frederick and Jane Bedford of Etna. She attended Hanover High School and Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire where she swam with the North Country Aquatics Club. She graduated from the University of Texas in 1994 with a degree in Art History.

On behalf of the citizens of the Granite State, congratulations to Barbara Bedford for a job well done. We are very proud to have this world-class competitor represent New Hampshire at the Pan American Games and look forward to following her future successes. It is an honor to represent Barbara and her family in the U.S. Senate.●

IN TRIBUTE TO NANCY D'ALESANDRO

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Nancy D'Alesandro, a first-class First Lady of Baltimore. She was a dedicated wife, mother of 6, grandmother of 16 and the driving force behind a family that distinguished itself in Baltimore and in Washington.

Nancy D'Alesandro was a Baltimore institution. There was nobody closer to the street or closer to the people. From 1947 to 1959, her husband Thomas D'Alesandro served as mayor of Baltimore and Nancy was a hands-on first lady. Likewise, she provided endless support during her husband's years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Devoted to her children, she was there for her son, Thomas D'Alesandro III, who also served a term as mayor of Baltimore and she was there for her daughter Nancy Pelosi, who currently