

program because so much of one's educational and personal success is built on one's ability to read.

If we are to be a nation of learners and achievers, we have to first be a nation of readers. A recent National Educational Goals Panel report indicated that students in New Mexico and many other States are not achieving in reading comprehension as well as they need to do in order to succeed in school and work.

This initiative will help us improve, and I would urge other businesses in our communities in New Mexico and around the Nation to initiate the Read-Write-Now program at their partner schools.●

NATIONAL MARKET IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate passed the conference report to H.R. 3005, the National Market Improvement Act of 1996, on Tuesday, November 1, 1996. This bill is a critical piece of legislation that will streamline securities regulation and provide important investor and consumer protections—maintaining the preeminence of the U.S. capital markets.

Section 102 of the bill will enable issuers whose securities are listed or authorized for listing on the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, the National Market System of the Nasdaq or a comparable exchange (or tier or segment thereof) to register those securities only with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Those issuers would not have to register their listed securities—or those securities that have been authorized for listing—with the 50 States.

The conferees intended for this provision to accord equal treatment to each of the exchanges explicitly listed in the statute (the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, the National Market System of the Nasdaq) as well as any other exchange (or segment or tier thereof) with comparable listing standards.

The conferees are concerned, however, that a strict reading of the statutory language may lead to the interpretation that the conferees intended the provision to accomplish something different than absolute parity of treatment among the eligible exchanges. Mr. President, this is unequivocally not the case.

In the future, I will seek to correct the drafting error to avoid any ambiguity in the statute. Pending that legislative fix, I take this opportunity to make the record clear—the conferees intended for issuers whose securities are listed or authorized for listing on the National Market System of the Nasdaq to be exempt from State registration requirements under section 102 of H.R. 3005.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILL WILEY

● Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I have been privileged in my career in the U.S. Senate, through my work on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to work with many of the great scientific minds of this country. I rise today to pay tribute to one of those scientists with whom I worked especially closely and who was a long-time close personal friend before his death last summer.

Dr. Bill Wiley of the Battelle Memorial Institute built a monumental career and left a huge legacy first and foremost because of his special gifts and training as a fine scientist. His achievements over his 30-year career with Battelle, beginning as a staff research scientist and ending with his position as vice president for Science and Technology, contributed significantly to this country's scientific understanding.

But I believe that the work for which Bill Wiley should and will be best remembered is the concrete result of his vision which is now nearing completion on the banks of the Columbia River in Richland, WA, the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL), which will be the jewel of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and which may very well hold the key to this country's Herculean effort to the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and other, similar sites around the country.

Armed only with this vision and his irrepresible charm and enthusiasm, Bill Wiley came to see me several years ago to lay out his plans for EMSL, undaunted by skeptics who had told him at every turn that it might be a good idea, but the Congress was unlikely to embrace such a costly project. I must say that had it been anyone other than Bill Wiley pushing the dream, the skeptics probably would have been right. But Bill not only convinced me that it was worth doing, he persuaded all the other relevant players that not only was it something we could do, but that it was something a great nation should not fail to do. I visited the EMSL facility in its late stages of construction shortly before Bill's death last summer. Anyone who ever harbored doubts about the wisdom of this research facility should go have a look when it opens its doors next month. It will be home to America's finest scientists employing the latest tools doing the best research in the world today. And it is a point of special pride to those of us who were his friends that they will be doing so in the building named in memory of William R. Wiley.

This African-American son of an Oxford, MS, cobbler served his Nation well professionally and as a humanitarian who was never too busy in his career to help the less fortunate who were trying to work their way up the ladder or merely to get to the first rung of the ladder. I know many col-

leagues join me in expressing our condolences to Bill's loving wife Gus and to his daughter Johari Wiley-Johnson and in expressing our deep gratitude for the paths that Bill Wiley charted and the mark he left behind.●

RECOGNITION OF KEVIN PRICE

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, before the 104th Congress adjourns, I want to take a moment of the Senate's time to thank someone who will be leaving my office in a few weeks.

Four years ago, Kevin Price joined my staff as a legislative assistant for agriculture from Senator KERREY's office, where he had served as a legislative correspondent. Kevin quickly established himself as one of the hardest working people on my staff. It seemed like he was almost always one of the first here in the morning and one of the last to leave at night. And that was before serious preparation for the 1995 farm bill had even begun.

Kevin also was very successful at reaching out to North Dakota farmers and farm groups. Although he initially had to overcome some skepticism because he was from the northwestern Minnesota town of Steven, and not a native of North Dakota, he soon earned their trust, respect, and friendship through his work for me on the 1993 budget, disaster assistance, grazing, and many, many other issues.

At the same time, Kevin developed a strong working relationship with other staff on agriculture issues that made him a persuasive actor in all of the staff work that goes on behind the scenes around here. His ties to both Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate staff, and key administration players made him very effective at protecting the interests of North Dakota farmers on myriad, small but often very important, issues that are effectively determined at the staff level.

For the past 3 years, Kevin immersed himself in the details of the 1995 farm bill to ensure that my priorities were addressed. For North Dakota, the farm bill is essential legislation. Its provisions, in large part, determine my State's economic future. During consideration of the farm bill, it is essential that I have accurate, timely information and thoughtfully prepared options. I ask a lot of my staff.

Kevin came through—for me, and for the people of North Dakota. He not only worked incredibly long hours himself, he did a terrific job of coordinating the many other members of my staff who also helped work on the farm bill, and, despite the enormous pressure that he must sometimes have felt, Kevin was always a pleasure to be around. Although I believe the overall approach to farm policy taken by the Republicans in the 1995 farm bill is misguided and I could not support it, it does contain numerous provisions that will make an important difference for North Dakota that would not be in the bill had Kevin not worked so hard on my behalf.