

accounting procedures, and assumed that the trust fund would be credited with \$1.5 billion more than it can be unless Congress reinstates the authority for the IRS to transfer the fourth quarter excise taxes to the trust fund. The FAA now expects to run out of money for its capital programs, and possibly its operations, much sooner than originally anticipated.

Mr. President, with Wednesday's Treasury Department announcement that the trust fund could be insolvent by March, I believe it is clear that the Senate's first and overriding priority must be to immediately reinstate the excise tax and transfer authority. While our system continues to be the safest aviation system in the world, Congress owes it to the American people to consider this legislation as quickly as possible to ensure aviation safety, security, and capital investment are not jeopardized in any manner.●

#### TRIBUTE TO EZE BURTS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ezunial "Eze" Burts, a talented public servant from California, who is retiring this month as the executive director of the Port of Los Angeles after 12 years of outstanding leadership.

Eze Burts has spent his entire career in public service. Early in his career, he worked for the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission where he administered the county's youth employment program. Later he became a top aide to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, where he handled a number of duties, including serving as the mayor's liaison to the police and fire departments. He also helped plan security for the highly successful 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, before assuming the helm of the port later that same year.

During Mr. Burts' tenure, the Port of Los Angeles has become one of the Nation's top trade centers, generating billions of dollars in revenue and creating thousands of jobs. During this period of amazing growth, the port's operating revenue has doubled and the total cargo volume has increased by more than one-third. In fact, the Los Angeles Customs District is the largest in the Nation, and the port has become a major gateway for our Nation's Pacific rim trade. Mr. President, to put into perspective Mr. Burts' responsibility over the years, the Port of Los Angeles accounts for more than 1 million jobs nationwide, including 1 out of every 27 jobs in southern California.

Mr. Burts has also been at the forefront of the Alameda corridor project, an enterprise which is very important to my State, and indeed to the entire country. When the Alameda corridor is completed, goods will be quickly shipped from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to rail yards in downtown Los Angeles, and from there to points throughout the country. Eze

Burts has been a key supporter of the Alameda corridor since its inception.

Mr. President, I am pleased to announce that Mr. Burts will continue to be a leader in the southern California community, as he prepares to become the new president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. I wish Mr. Burts and his family well as he takes on this new challenge.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM J. PERRY

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and to pay respect to Dr. William Perry for his distinguished service as the 19th Secretary of Defense. From his confirmation by the U.S. Senate on March 5, 1993, until his retirement on January 24, 1997, Dr. Perry has successfully faced many challenges as he has advised the President and the Congress through the difficult and ever-changing post-cold war era. Clearly, he was the right man at the right time.

Bill Perry brought to the Office of the Secretary of Defense a deep intellect, sound judgment, and a patient but effective leadership style. It is no surprise to me, and I am sure to others that know Bill Perry, how quickly he endeared himself to our men and women in uniform. His genuine concern for our service members has been the hallmark of his tenure as Secretary of Defense. Indeed, his initiatives in the area of quality-of-life have truly made a difference, and will serve as a fitting legacy of his exemplary service.

I have known Bill Perry for many years. I have had the opportunity to work with him during his service in both the Government and the private sector. As he returns once again to the private sector, I look forward to continuing our relationship and I wish him and his family all the best.

Mr. President, I ask that the eloquent remarks that Dr. Perry gave during his farewell ceremony be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

FAREWELL ADDRESS BY WILLIAM J. PERRY,  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

I shall be telling this with a sigh.

Somewhere ages and ages hence.

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less traveled by.

And that has made all the difference.

—Robert Frost.

Four years ago, America faced a choice; a choice between two roads that diverged. One road led to isolation and apathy, the other road, to engagement and action. This century has taught us that the road of isolation and apathy leads to instability and war.

President Clinton chose the road of engagement and action. He strove to bridge the Cold War chasms; to reduce its nuclear legacy; to reach out to former adversaries, to prevent the conditions for conflict, and to create the conditions for peace. And that, as Robert Frost has said, has made all the difference.

It has made all the difference in Europe, where, by establishing the Partnership for Peace we have replaced an Iron Curtain which divided the nations of Europe with a

circle of security which brings them together.

It has made all the difference in our own hemisphere, where all nations, save one, have chosen democracy, and by establishing the Defense Ministerial of Americas we have forged new links of trust and cooperation.

It has made all the difference in the Asia Pacific, where by establishing a Framework Agreement we froze the North Korean nuclear program and prevented a nuclear arms race; and where, by strengthening the Security Agreement with Japan, we have ensured America's security presence—the oxygen that fuels the region's prosperity.

Choosing the right road has made all the difference around the world. By executing the Nunn-Lugar program, we have dismantled 4,000 nuclear weapons that once targeted America's cities. Today, the threat of nuclear holocaust no longer hangs like a dark cloud over the heads of our children.

Four years ago, the Department of Defense faced a choice. One road was well-traveled and easy to follow, but it would have allowed our forces to atrophy as we completed the post-Cold War draw down. The other road was less traveled by, twisting and bumpy with hard choices—hard choices to ensure that we had strong capable military forces ready to respond in a world of new dangers.

Twice before in this century when faced with that same choice, we chose the well-traveled road of neglect. And we paid the price—in Korea with Task Force Smith, and after Vietnam with a Hollow Army. This time we chose the road less-traveled by—the road of readiness. We established training as our highest priority. Training designed to make the scrimmage tougher than the game. We established the iron logic that quality of life for our forces meant quality people in our forces. We reformed our acquisition system to give our quality people the most effective technology. Technology that enables them to dominate the battlefield; to win quickly, decisively, and with minimum losses. And that has made all the difference.

It made all the difference wherever we sent our forces to prevent, deter, or defeat aggression. In Haiti, where we restored democracy. In the Arabian Gulf, where we contained a brutal dictator. In the Korean Peninsula, where we stood firm with an ally. In Bosnia, where we have stopped the killing and brought to a war-ravaged people the blessings of peace. The readiness road ensured the success of each of these missions. Readiness made all the difference.

Four years ago, I faced a personal choice between a well-traveled road to a quieter life, centered around family and friends; and a less-traveled road that led to turmoil, tension, and tough decisions. But it also led to an opportunity to serve our nation, to support the troops I cared for, and to achieve the dreams I cherished.

I thought long and hard upon that choice and took counsel from sage friends. I questioned my wisdom, my patience and my ability to endure. But the courage to meet the test came from the advice of a tough sergeant major: "Take care of the troops," he said, "and they will take care of you."

I have followed that advice, and that, for me, has made all the difference.

It made all the difference every time I advised the President on when and how to use military force. It made all the difference when I negotiated with ministerial colleagues, when I met with Presidents and Kings. It made all the difference when I decided on force levels, mission goals and rules of engagement every time we put our troops in harm's way. It made all the difference when I met with soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, in distant lands, on domestic bases, on training fields, ships at sea, in cargo