

the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a hearing to review H.R. 363, a bill to amend section 2118 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to extend the Electric and Magnetic Fields Research and Public Information Dissemination Program.

The hearing will take place on Monday, May 19 in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building starting at 11:30 a.m. Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information please contact David Garman or Shawn Taylor at 202-224-8115.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I want to express my support for this emergency supplemental appropriations legislation that will provide much needed relief to citizens in 33 States who have lived through some of the most catastrophic weather emergencies we have ever witnessed in this country. And this legislation also provides much needed funding for our brave service men and women who are keeping the peace in Bosnia.

We have spent the entire week on this legislation and its successful completion is a tribute to the leadership of the new chairman of the Appropriations Committee, my distinguished senior colleague and close friend TED STEVENS and his staff for their hard work on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. President, not only will this legislation provide important financial relief to citizens in hundreds of communities, but it will ensure that we will not see a repeat of the shutdown of the Government that occurred in 1995. And it removes the arbitrary policy of the Interior Department which would terminate the 130-year-old policy that allows States to continue to have access across public lands.

I want to congratulate Senator STEVENS on the passage of this, the first legislation reported by the Appropriations Committee under his chairmanship. I look forward to working with him on many more appropriations bills and am certain that the leadership he has demonstrated on this bill will be repeated several times over in the years to come. •

##### HELPMATE ROBOTICS OF DANBURY, CONNECTICUT

Mr DODD. Mr. President, I am proud of the many distinguished people, places, and enterprises in my great State of Connecticut. One of them is a company in which innovative spirit, entrepreneurial zest, and good will combine to create products that truly make our lives better. I am speaking of HelpMate Robotics of Danbury, CT.

HelpMate invented and manufactures the first hospital care robot. The robot performs tasks such as delivering food, medicine, and lab samples, so that nurses and orderlies can concentrate on what they do best: caring for patients. Many hospitals are relying on HelpMate's hospital robot to cut costs while improving patient care.

HelpMate's success is due largely to the vision of its founder, Dr. Joseph Engleberger. Dr. Engleberger is widely known as the father of the industrial robot. After building a successful company around the hospital robot, he and HelpMate are now developing an elder-care robot that would help older or infirmed people live at home independently.

Mr. President, I speak about this company and its products today not just to share a home State success story, but to make the larger point that research in one sector often leads to applications in several others. Such cost-effective investments of Federal research dollars ought to be encouraged. The HelpMate hospital robot and anticipated elder-care robot exemplify such a process. The technology they use was initially born out of research for space robotics funded by a NASA Small Business Innovative Research award, and this same technology will ultimately help drive down health care costs.

I urge my colleagues to read more about this company and their remarkable work in the March 3, 1997, Business Week article that I now submit for the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From Business Week, Mar. 3, 1997]

##### INVASION OF THE ROBOTS

(By Otis Port)

At age 71, Joseph F. Engelberger knows time is running out on his lifelong ambition. He is already acclaimed around the world as the father of the industrial robot. But the workaholic chairman of the HelpMate Robotics Inc. in Danbury, Conn., would rather be remembered as the father of the home robot. "Common sense tells you it's got to end up a bigger market than factory robots," he says.

Don't expect the Smiths and Joneses to turn their housekeeping chores over to a robot soon. The first model—which Engelberger has promised to his wife, Margaret, even though she's not crazy about the idea—won't roll off an assembly line until 30 months after Engelberger amasses at least \$5 million to finish development. "The clock starts ticking when I get the money," he says.

People who know Engelberger figure he'll pull it off. "Joe is a very charismatic guy," says Brian R. Carlisle, president of robot maker Adept Technology Inc. in San Jose, Calif. "He's really able to make you believe in his visions." Just ask his kids. Daughter Gay, age 41, is HelpMate's marketing director, and son Jeff, 38, is an engineer at Adept Technology. "When you grow up with someone like him," Gay says, "how could you not want to get into this business?" Investors also are under Engelberger's spell. In January, 1996, HelpMate's initial public offering was a sellout, even though the company had an accumulated deficit of more than \$13 million.

Why are so many people rooting for Engelberger? Because without him, Detroit auto workers might still be welding and painting cars by hand. Today's robot industry stems from a 1956 cocktail party in Westport, Conn., where science-fiction fan Engelberger met inventor George Devol. When Devol mentioned he had applied for a patent on a punch-card-controlled mechanical arm for doing repetitive jobs in factories, Engelberger was hooked.

He persuaded his employer, Consolidated Controls Co., to buy Devol's patent. The first prototype dubbed Unimate, was finished in 1959 and went to work unloading a die-casting machine in a General Motors Corp. factory. But two years later, Consolidated lost interest and told Engleberger to close his shop. "I went to Barnes & Noble and bought six books on finance—and earned my MBA over the weekend," he quips. On Monday, he proposed a spin-off and was given four months to find a backer. He did, and Unimation Inc. was born.

Sputtering. During the 1960s, Engleberger fought an uphill battle to persuade skeptical U.S. manufacturers to employ his programmable arms. He got a warmer reception in Japan—and Japanese robot makers quickly rose to world domination. Among Japanese managers, Engelberger is "a legendary figure," says Shikgeaki Yanai, a researcher at the Japan Robot Assn.

Unimation held its own against the Japanese, but in 1983 its cash-strapped owner, Condec Corp., sold the company to Westinghouse Electric Corp. for \$107 million. "They picked a great time to sell," notes Engleberger. America's U.S. robot business soon sputtered, after dozens of companies jumped into the market and sold some systems that didn't live up to promises. Sales peaked in 1984 at \$484 million, then headed south.

Engleberger had hoped Westinghouse would see an opportunity in home robots. When it didn't, he quit and bought a 62-foot, \$800,000 sailboat with part of his \$3 million take from Unimation's sale. He planned to enjoy life as a gentleman of leisure. That lasted for two months. "I got bored pretty quick," he admits. In late 1984, he formed HelpMate, initially called Transitions Research Corp.

To pave the way for home robots, Engelberger decided to use hospitals as a test bed. In 1988, he sold his first medical unit to Danbury Hospital, which now has two. They roam the hallways running errands—delivering medications, meals, X-rays, and patients' records. Handling these chores to machines frees more time for nurses and orderlies to concentrate on caring for patients, says HelpMate President Thomas K. Sweeny.

Word of HelpMate's robots is spreading. Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas has 4 machines, with 11 more on order. All told, 144 have been hired by 85 hospitals in the U.S. Canada, 18 in Japan, and 10 in Europe. Purchased outright, the robots cost \$110,000, so most are rented for \$4 to \$6 an hour.

Outwardly, the 4-foot-6-inch robots resemble the box-on-wheels systems that carry the mail in some offices. But there's a crucial difference: A HelpMate doesn't follow a fixed track, such as a wire in the floor. Instead, its electronic memory contains a floor map of the hospital. When summoned by radio or pointed to a location on a built-in video screen, the robot's microprocessor brain calculates the quickest way to get there. En route, the robot uses infrared and ultraviolet beams to dodge people, food carts, and gurneys in busy corridors, and it summons elevators and opens doors with radio signals.

Sweeny says large hospitals can economically justify one HelpMate for every 100 beds,