

Secretary for Health and Surgeon General to promote issues related to abortion. I share no one's political agenda and I want to use the power of these positions to focus on issues that unite Americans—not divide them.

I am not comforted by this clarification of his position.

Mr. President, I believe we as a nation require a Surgeon General who's position on this issue is one of furthering policies which, at a minimum, do not give tacit approval of a procedure that 75 to 80 percent of Americans agree is barbaric and unneeded.

With regard to the AZT trials to prevent the maternal-to-infant transfer of HIV in Africa, I also share some concerns about the protocol set up in this study. Specifically, the use of a placebo control group.

Mr. President, I have always been a strong supporter of medical research. I cannot, however, endorse or condone research done in developing countries in a manner which we would not conduct it here in our own Nation—with our own constituents as the subjects of that research.

Mr. President, I listened to both sides of the arguments and came to a conclusion. I have no reason to believe Dr. David Satcher is not qualified to serve as Assistant Secretary of Health and Surgeon General of the United States. However, I, for the reasons cited earlier, could not in good conscience support his nomination.●

MAKING CRS REPORTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, last week Senator MCCAIN, the Chairman of the Commerce Committee, introduced legislation to make Congressional Research Service Reports, Issue Briefs and Authorization and Appropriations products available over the Internet to the public. I rise today to express my support for this timely legislation.

The Congressional Research Service has a well-deserved reputation for producing objective, high-quality reports and issue briefs. I have relied on these reports in the past and have only the highest regard for the material produced by CRS. This information is not readily available to the general public, however. Congressional offices must officially request information on a constituent's behalf.

Senator MCCAIN's legislation, S. 1578, directs the Director of CRS to make reports, issue briefs and the more comprehensive CRS reports on federal authorizations and appropriations available on the Internet. Most of this information is already available on the CRS website but can only be accessed by Members of Congress and their staff. Obviously, since we use the Internet to make this information more accessible to Congress, we have the ability to make this information available to the general public. It is time we do so.

Increasingly, the public is demonstrating that it is not satisfied with

the way Congress does business. Amid the furor over campaign finance reform, accusations abound of Members "selling" their votes to private interest groups. I believe that greater access to the documents used by Members of Congress when making decisions will increase public understanding of this institution. Since constituents will be able to see the materials which influence the way a Member votes, a more accurate view of the Congressional decision-making process should emerge.

Passage of this legislation will also permit the Congressional Research Service to serve an important role in informing the public. This nation's citizens will be able to read CRS products and receive a concise, accurate summary of the issues that concern them. The American taxpayer is paying for this information, almost \$65 million for this year alone, and has a right to see it.

The technological advances of the last decade are truly astonishing. Every effort should be made to apply this new technology as widely as possible. The advent of the Internet provides an important avenue for the exploration of new applications. This new medium has made possible the low-cost, rapid dissemination of information to an growing audience, and, whereas legislation to make CRS information available to the public was not plausible ten years ago, today we can do it at a very low cost.

Mr. President, removing the barriers to public view of CRS documents is a great idea who's time has come. It will help Congress to better fulfill its duty to inform the public and allow constituents to see first hand the information that serves as the basis for many of the decisions made by its federally elected representatives.●

AN IDAHOAN MINES OLYMPIC GOLD

● Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate an American athlete who has shown us all that adversity can be turned into inspiration and success.

Picabo Street, a young woman from the tiny mining town of Triumph in my home state of Idaho, has thrilled us all with her gold medal-winning performance in the women's super giant slalom at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Four years ago I stood in this chamber to offer my congratulations to Picabo, who won a silver medal in the Lillehammer Olympics in the downhill. While a lot has happened in this country and the world over those four years, one thing has remained the same: Picabo Street's desire to win an Olympic gold medal.

That dream looked like it might not be fulfilled after a horrible accident 14 months ago during a training run. Picabo blew out her knee, and missed almost the entire 1997 season. But thanks to her determination and tire-

less rehabilitation, the knee was strong enough to return to action late last year. And then, another setback marred her prospects for Nagano. Just 12 days ago, she was knocked unconscious in a spill during a race in Sweden.

But this remarkable third-generation Idahoan, who learned to ski on the slopes of Sun Valley, was determined not to let this latest setback keep her from fulfilling the promise she made to her parents when she was a little girl—the promise of Olympic gold.

Picabo says the long and difficult months of rehabilitation from her injury were the toughest times of her life. Yet her hard work and dedication pulled her through. Even while she could only sit and watch her teammates get ready for these games, she never lost hope.

Picabo's mother, Dee, taught her the words to the Star Spangled Banner. Four years ago, Picabo stood on the silver medal platform, listening to another country's anthem being played. She vowed the next time she'd hear her anthem. Those singing lessons came in handy today. With the gold medal around her neck, Picabo sang the words to our national anthem. I'm sure every American sang with her.

Idaho can be truly proud of a hometown hero, who overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to regain the form that made her a world champion. I ask every Idahoan and every American to join me in offering congratulations to this amazing athlete.

The little girl from the gold mining town of Triumph, Idaho has triumphed and won the gold medal.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

No. 371, Sally Thompson, to be CFO of the Department of Agriculture.

No. 490, Robert Warshaw, to be Associate Director for National Drug Control Policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sally Thompson, of Kansas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Robert S. Warshaw, of New York, to be Associate Director for National Drug Control Policy.