It is a sense-of-the-Senate amendment. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] proposes an amendment numbered 2178.

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . SENSE OF SENATE REGARDING AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROGRAMS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals in this concurrent resolution assume the Secretary of Agriculture will use agricultural trade programs established by law to promote, to the maximum extent practicable, the export of United States agricultural commodities and products.

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, this is a sense-of-the-Senate amendment. Every year, we have authorized and we have appropriated moneys for programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help market grain abroad; in other words, to beef up our exports and to be able to compete in the international market.

We are going through times now where prices are very, very stressed and depressed, I would say. We need all the help we can get to move the supply that we have into foreign hands after the collapse of the financial markets in the Pacific rim that have been major buyers of our agricultural commodities. Of course, the actions of the IMF and what this country has undertaken to help those countries out of that financial condition will help those of us who depend heavily on agricultural exports.

This is just a sense of the Senate to tell the USDA and the International Trade Representative that we need help. It does no good to put the loaded pistol in the holster if the USDA doesn't pull it in times when we really need it. The time is now. This is just a sense of the Senate to say that we have authorized it, we have funded it, and we hope the USDA will use it.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I ask unanimous consent that Senator KENNEDY's name be added as a cosponsor to the Conrad amendment No. 2174.

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

Mr. LAUTENBERG. And I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a cosponsor to the Gregg amendment No. 2168.

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

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I also ask unanimous consent that I may proceed as in morning business.

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

AMERICAN MISSILE PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator ENZI be added as a cosponsor to S. 1873, the American Missile Protection Act of 1998.

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

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, this bill was introduced by Senator INOUYE and me on March 19. After we sent a letter to all Senators inviting cosponsors, we received a very positive response. I am pleased to advise the Senate that with the addition of Senator ENZI, there are now 40 cosponsors of S. 1873.

This bill would make it the policy of the United States to deploy as soon as technologically possible an effective national missile defense system capable of defending the territory of the United States against limited ballistic missile attack, whether accidental, unauthorized or deliberate.

We believe this policy is necessary because of the growing proliferation threat. The proliferation threat includes both weapons of mass destruction and long-range ballistic missile delivery systems.

The fact is that determining how quickly the United States will be facing an ICBM threat from a rogue nation is difficult to estimate. The Director of Central Intelligence recognized this point last year when he said to the Senate, ''Gaps and uncertainties preclude a good projection of exactly when 'rest of the world' countries will deploy ICBMs.''

That ''gaps and uncertainties'' exist is not an indictment of our intelligence agencies. We have many fine and dedicated people in the intelligence community who have devoted their professional careers to obtaining information about and analyzing proliferation. But it is extremely difficult to predict accurately just how quickly technology will move forward and will be made in certain countries.

Predicting the rate of technological advance would be difficult even if rogue states were to accept no outside assistance in their pursuit of mass destruction weapons and missile delivery platforms of ever-increasing range. But adding the knowledge now available in the information age to anyone with a computer and a telephone line to the fact that some nations are actively assisting pursuit of these capabilities makes for a situation in which predictions can be outdated soon after they are made.

Take, for example, the case of the Shahab-3 and Shahab-4, two intermediate-range ballistic missiles Iran is pursuing with substantial help from Russian organizations. Last Friday's Washington Times carried an article entitled ''Pentagon Confirms Details on Iranian Missiles.'' It describes this situation, and I think it is very alarming.

It is no secret that Iran is pursuing these missiles. The Shahab-3, with a range of 1,300 kilometers, will be capable of striking U.S. forces throughout the Middle East and our close allies in the region as well. The Shahab-4, with a range of 2,000 kilometers, will be able to reach into Central Europe.

We all understand that neither of these missiles will have the range to strike the United States unless they are launched from some kind of a mobile platform, like a ship. But the important point is that these missiles are proceeding at a much more rapid pace than anticipated just last year, and the reason these missiles can be ready sooner than we expected is because of Russian expertise provided to Iran.

In February the Director of Central Intelligence testified to the Senate:

. . . since I testified, Iran's success in getting technology and materials from Russian companies, combined with recent indigenous Iranian advances, means that it could have a medium-range missile much sooner than I assessed last year.

Madam President, the very kind of outside assistance that is speeding this Shahab-3 along so rapidly could also contribute in a similar way to the acquisition of long-range ballistic missiles by rogue nations. These kinds of nations are interested in ICBMs because they make the United States vulnerable to coercion or intimidation in time of crisis. It is a vulnerability that disappears when an effective national missile defense is deployed.

That is why we have introduced the American Missile Protection Act of 1998. America should end its ICBM vulnerability as soon as the technology is available.

Madam President, given the uncertainties about just when other nations will possess ICBMs, it only makes sense to be clear now in our commitment to deploy defenses against these systems as soon as the technology is ready. If the choice is to deploy a national missile defense capable against a limited threat 1 year too soon or 1 year too late, let it be 1 year too soon. The lesson of the Shahab-3 is that even the best intentioned estimates can be wrong.

I ask unanimous consent, Madam President, that the article I referred to from the Washington Times be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 27, 1998]

PENTAGON CONFIRMS DETAILS ON IRANIAN MISSILES

(By Bill Gertz)

The Pentagon identified Iran's two medium-range ballistic missiles for the first

time publicly this week, giving their ranges and also providing details on an older Chinese nuclear-tipped missile.

Iran's Shahab-3 missile will have a range of about 800 miles and a second version, the Shahab-4, will be able to hit targets as far as 1,240 miles away, according to Senate testimony by Air Force Lt. Gen. Lester Lyles, director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

It was the first time the Pentagon has confirmed the existence of the Shahab missiles, which were disclosed last year by The Washington Times.

U.S. intelligence officials have said the missiles could be deployed within two years and that both Russia and China provided materials and technology.

''The development of long-range ballistic missiles is part of Iran's effort to become a major regional military power and Iran could field a [medium-range ballistic missile] system in the first half of the next decade,'' a Pentagon official said.

The chart made public Tuesday identified the Iranian and Chinese missiles as potential targets for U.S. regional missile defense systems under development. It was part of Gen. Lyles' testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The chart also listed the range of China's CSS–2 nuclear missile, which has a range of about 1,860 miles and is the only intermediate-range missile ever exported. Saudi Arabia purchased about 40 of the missiles. China has deployed about 40 CSS–2s for more than 25 years.

According to an Air Force intelligence report obtained by The Times last year, the CSS–2 is being replaced by China's new and more capable CSS–5. About 40 CSS–5s, with a ranges of about 1,333 miles, have been deployed, and a more accurate version, is awaiting deployment.

The chart showed two Scud missiles with ranges of between 62 and 186 miles, China's M–9 missile with a 372-mile range, and the North Korean Nodong, with a 620-mile range.

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials yesterday disclosed new details of global missile deployments and developments that will be made public in a report due out next week.

The officials, who declined to be named, revealed that Russia and China are developing new short-range missiles called the SSX–26 and CSSX–7, respectively. Both will have ranges greater than 185 miles. Egypt also has a new 425-mile-range missile called Vector, they said.

Pakistan and India also have new missiles and are in the process of building longer-range systems, the officials said. Pakistan's will have a 700-mile range and India is working on a longer-range version of the Agni missile with a 1,250-mile range.

The new missiles could be used in regional conflicts, armed with nuclear, chemical or biological warheads, or against U.S. troops abroad. There is also the danger that they might be transferred to rogue nations.

According to the Pentagon, more than 19 developing nations currently possess short-range ballistic missiles and six others have acquired or are building longer-range missiles with ranges greater than 600 miles.

North Korea has three longer-range missiles dubbed Nodong and Taepodong 1 and 2. They have ranges of between 600 miles and 3,700 miles—enough to hit Alaska.

The longer-range missiles of China, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, India, Pakistan and Iran ''are strategic systems and most will be armed with nonconventional warheads,'' one official said.

Missile states of concern include Afghanistan, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Libya, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Slovakia, Syria, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Vietnam and Yemen.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PERKINS

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, at the end of this month, my long-time good friend, John Perkins, will retire from service as a member of my personal staff. He has served as press secretary in my office since August 1979.

Our friendship dates from the 1940s when we were students in elementary school at Byram Consolidated School near Jackson, MS. We also were members of the same Boy Scout troop.

John got his first newspaper job when we were in high school. My father was our principal, and he and our football coach were asked to recommend a stringer for the Jackson, MS, papers to report scores and highlights of our football games. The person they recommended was John Perkins. The year was 1953, and John was in the ninth grade.

From that beginning, he went on to serve on the student newspaper staff at Millsaps College where he graduated with a major in history in 1961. After college, he served in the U.S. Army Reserves, and then became a docket and reading clerk in the Mississippi State Senate.

He attended graduate school in journalism at the University of Mississippi and worked in press relations for the Charles Sullivan campaign for Governor, in our State, in 1963.

He then held a series of newspaper jobs covering a range of subjects from sports to local governments at the Jackson Daily News and the Meridian Star before being named managing editor of the Daily Corinthian in 1965. The next year John returned to the Meridian Star as managing editor and political writer.

He was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives for a 4-year term in 1967 and was an active member of the coalition that successfully worked for passage of Governor John Bell Williams' highway program in the House.

When David Bowen was elected to Congress in 1972, he recruited John Perkins to come to Washington as his press secretary. As a member of our State's delegation in the House, I had the opportunity to observe the work of all the press secretaries from Mississippi. And soon after I became a Member of the Senate, I invited John to join my staff.

I have enjoyed very much working with him for these 18½ years. Our State and Nation have been well-served by the diligence, dedication and commitment to excellence of John Perkins. He has put forth his best efforts to reflect credit on me, our State, and the U.S. Senate, and he has succeeded.

He will be missed by us all, but we intend to stay in close touch and continue the close friendship that began 50 years ago.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for the next 8 minutes as in morning business.

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

ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVERS ON OUR ROADS

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I rise today to discuss a major threat to the life and health of countless Americans. I am referring to the alcohol-impaired drivers on our roads.

Madam President, as part of the Senate's action on the highway bill, we passed an extremely valuable measure that would save many of these precious lives. Through the amendment offered by myself and my colleague from New Jersey, who is on the floor now, we said that if a person's blood contains .08 percent alcohol or higher, that person is not fit to drive.

This Lautenberg-DeWine amendment, passed this body by a very wide margin. I rise this afternoon because there is a rising tide of disinformation being spread about this .08 legislation. This misinformation campaign is funded in large part by the alcoholic beverage industry.

I strongly believe that as we move this measure forward through the legislative process, we all must be guided by the facts. The facts are simple: All widely accepted studies indicate that the blood alcohol standard should be set at .08 BAC. ''BAC,'' of course, stands for ''blood alcohol content.'' At .08 BAC, individuals simply should not be driving a car.

The risk of being in a crash rises gradually with each increase in the blood alcohol content level of an individual. But when a driver reaches or exceeds the .08 blood alcohol content level, the risk rises very rapidly.

At .08 a driver's vision, balance, reaction time, hearing, judgment, and self-control are seriously impaired. Moreover, at .08, critical driving tasks—concentrated attention, speed control, braking, steering, gear changing and lane tracking—are also all negatively affected.

The alcohol industry, in arguing against the .08 standard, claims that ''only'' 7 percent of fatal crashes involve drivers with blood alcohol content levels between .08 and .09. Well, let us look at what that really means. If we take their own statistics, if we use the 1995 figures, that means that approximately 1,200 Americans died because of alcohol, drivers impaired at the levels of .08 and .09—1,200 lives were lost.

Madam President, that obviously is too many. Changing the blood alcohol