

and effective strategy for future federal funding of science and technology.

On April 28th, the Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee which I chair, held a hearing to further explore the whole issue of federal funding, and three of the original cosponsors of S. 1305—Senators GRAMM, LIEBERMAN, and BINGAMAN—participated. Senator DOMENICI, who was unable to attend, submitted testimony for the RECORD.

At my direction, my personal chief of staff, and my Commerce Committee staff, have met extensively with professional societies, private industry, and university representatives, some of whom are here today, to get a clear sense of your reality, your vision of where research and development ought to be headed, and your reaction to both S. 1305 and a First alternative.

They've also been meeting with the senior legislative staffs of other Members to develop a strategy everyone is comfortable with, and that addresses everyone's primary concerns. And we've been meeting with House staff and coordinating our goals with those of the House Policy Study. The response has been very positive.

After comprehensive discussions my Senate colleagues have agreed to support a First alternative in which funding would rise from \$34 billion to \$68 billion. And all other parties seem to like the idea of a long-term vision, a concrete strategy to take us there (vs. rhetoric that is subject to change), and realistic numbers that stand a good chance of being achieved.

Your input into this process has been particularly important. Every time we meet, my staff and I gain a better understanding of the complexity of these issues as they relate to universities. And I hope you'll continue to work with us in the days ahead.

In the very near future, probably within a week or two, a Frist/Rockefeller bill, officially called the Federal Research Investment Act of 1998, will be dropped. It is a bill that represents—not a roadblock to increased federal funding for research—but a carefully-crafted compromise, agreed to by all, and representing the best efforts of all.

CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE

Today, in every known field of exploration, man has answered questions once considered unanswerable, and questions impossible to even conceive just a short time ago. Yet so many mysteries remain. And so we must continue to seek, to define, to know.

Yet science today is not only about the esoteric, it's about the practical. It's about the simple as well as the deep. It is both a luxury and a necessity. Science helps us feed our families. It helps keep our loved ones healthy. By continually creating new goods and services, new jobs and new capital, it raises our standard of living. And it produces the technologies that protect our troops and project our resolve around the world. In other words, science has helped keep us prosperous, and science has helped keep us free.

Without a doubt, science is an integral part of our present. But because we live in a world now dependent upon science and technology excellence, a world driven by a science and technology economy, science is even more important to our future.

To a large extent, universities hold the key to that future because universities guide America's youth and inspire them to seek out the deep truths of life, to lift the veil from its fascinating secrets, to seek, to define, to know. It is the University that fosters a love for the mysteries of God and nature, and propels the next generation forward to explore and improve our world. And that makes you a vital link between the present and the future.

We are—and we should be—justly proud of our scientific accomplishments thus far. But

if there is one thing science has taught us, it is that man's challenges only increase with every new level of knowledge we achieve. Which is why continued research and development is so important.

Expanding scientific knowledge is a responsibility that extends well beyond the classrooms and universities of our Nation. It is the responsibility of us all. As John F. Kennedy said, "Every educated citizen has the special obligation to encourage the pursuit of learning, to promote exploration of the unknown, to preserve the freedom of inquiry, [and to] support the advancement of research . . ."

I take his words seriously. I know you do as well. Working together, I believe we can ensure that American commitment to research and scientific inquiry continues unabated in the years ahead.●

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL MARY TRIPP

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is my privilege to say a few words in honor of a native Illinoisan, Colonel Mary Tripp, who retired from the United States Air Force on June 1, 1998 after 23 years of proud service to our nation.

Colonel Tripp's final assignment in the Air Force was director of the program honoring the 50th anniversary of the service. The project was a blend of motivational and historic information, which under Colonel Tripp's direction both informed the general public and energized her fellow airmen. From the national recognition at the Tournament of Roses Parade to the Pentagon Cake Cutting Ceremony with President Clinton, the hard work and dedication of Colonel Tripp shined in every event. The distinguished history of the United States Air Force is a story every American should know. Under Colonel Tripp's direction, this story was told. Through the example Colonel Tripp set as an officer during her career, the Air Force's proud legacy will continue to grow.

As Colonel Tripp returns to private life in West Chicago, Illinois, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending her outstanding service to our nation, and wish her good luck and Godspeed in all of her future endeavors.●

RECOGNITION OF "FATHER'S MONTH"

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the new tradition of "Father's Month" in St. Louis, Missouri founded by Mayor Clarence Harmon. Being a father myself, I know the important role that a father's nurturing can make in a child's life. A father's influence can help a child grow into a healthy, happy, well-adjusted adult.

The purpose of "Father's Month" will be to encourage the community to actively work toward a common goal of fathers who take a larger role in the development of their children. I agree with Mayor Harmon that merely providing financial support is not enough. With the continuing efforts of St. Louis to promote events that teach

positive family values and family togetherness, there is no telling how much the community can achieve. I offer Mayor Harmon and the community of St. Louis support and gratitude during "Father's Month."●

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND COMMITMENT OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of one of our Nation's most compassionate and visionary leaders, Robert F. Kennedy, who was assassinated 30 years ago. He served our nation as Attorney General and United States Senator, but his impact on our nation's history cannot be measured by mere titles or the offices he held.

Although his life was cut short thirty years ago, his legacy will live on forever. Many of today's leaders were inspired by Bobby Kennedy—he inspired me to become involved in politics more than three decades ago. I had the privilege to meet Bobby Kennedy in the summer of 1965 at Stetson University. Shaking his hand forever changed my life. Now today in the Senate my desk is very close to his old desk on the Senate floor—close enough to always remind me of why I first got involved in politics.

Bobby Kennedy's philosophy was truly admirable. Bobby Kennedy was committed to equal opportunity for all. He displayed ceaseless devotion to the impoverished members of the American community, and pushed for decent wages and adequate healthcare for all. He knew the importance of protecting the well-being of our youth, and he fought to improve their education. Throughout his life, he worked toward a more just society.

His tragic death shocked and saddened the hearts of America. I was recovering from my injuries from Vietnam in Walter Reed Hospital the day I heard of his tragic death. I am sure many others have a similarly clear recollection of that day. We had lost a committed, warmhearted leader who we would never forget or replace.

Mr. President, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in remembering this admirable and courageous leader, who forever changed the history of this nation. Thirty years later, his memory and legacy live on. We continue to remember Robert F. Kennedy for his passion, courage and devotion, and will always do so.●

TRIBUTE TO AARON LOPEZ: NEW HAMPSHIRE'S 1998 STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR 1998

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Aaron Lopez of Nashua, NH. Aaron was recently named the New Hampshire State Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

The Youth of the Year program, in its 51st year, recognizes outstanding