

In Russia today, there is a growing ultranationalism which represents a major threat to its progress as a democracy, and we must be cognizant of that.

It will take courage for Russia to look to the future positively, to abandon obsolete thinking, to reassess its national security needs and interests in light of new alliances. It will require a high level of determination and hard work by our country to work with Russia to develop these institutions, institutions which can encourage the growth of democracy and free markets and lead to a more stable and cooperative and prosperous new Russia.

But if future generations are to be spared the danger, the expense, and the terror faced by my generation in dealing with Russia, if we are truly to reap the benefits of the end of the cold war, we cannot stand by and wait to see whether democracy and free markets will survive in Russia.

In more concrete terms, I believe that the time is ripe for a full-scale, high-level, new initiative towards Russia as we approach the 21st century.

The Vice President's trip and this September's summit, I hope, will contribute greatly toward this process, but the Senate bears a special responsibility for the conduct of our Nation's foreign policy. We must play a role, too.

This initiative, I believe, should focus on ways in which the United States can work effectively with the new Russia to strengthen and encourage democratization; to support efforts by the IMF and the international community to assist Russia's economy to make the full transition to free markets; to examine and revise outdated legislation which has created roadblocks and bottlenecks in United States-Russian relations and which place United States firms doing business in Russia at a competitive disadvantage; to provide help in the fight against corruption and organized criminal enterprise in Russia; to expedite existing United States resources now available through OPIC, the Eximbank, and other financial institutions through the development of fast-track type programs which cut red tape for worthy business projects and investments; to encourage and expand existing academic, cultural, and other exchange programs, including those between the Congress and the Duma which aim to support Russia's reformers; and, finally, to work to fully integrate Russia as an equal partner in the international political, economic, and security institutions.

We must understand how the right kind of foreign assistance can play a crucial role in assuring Russian economic growth and vitality. And we must understand how our assistance can help create the ability for Russia to consolidate its gains and provide the opportunity for Russia to work out its national identity and destiny in ways which will complement American interests.

None of this will be easy and all of it will require sustained effort. To that end, the Vice President's trip this week is a first major step. And to that end also, I hope to be able to work with the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee of this body to conduct hearings to examine the nature and future direction of United States policy toward Russia. From these hearings I hope we can develop legislation to address United States policy in the areas I have outlined above, and to strengthen United States-Russian ties in an appropriate way.

I deeply believe that this relationship needs the most intensive concern and interaction at the present time. We must give Russia both time and opportunity to consolidate the reforms that constitute the good news of the past few years, to work with them to beat back the forces that threaten this progress, and to assist them to become a stable, prospering, democratic republic which can be a partner for world peace in the next century.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

Mr. CRAIG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

(The remarks of Mr. CRAIG pertaining to the introduction of S. 2337 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### HONORING THE DRAKES ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. Individuals from strong families contribute to society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken seriously the commitment of "till death us do part", demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Elsie and David Drake of Springfield, Missouri, who on July 26, 1998, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Many things have changed in the 50 years this couple has been married, but the values, principles, and commitment this marriage demonstrates are timeless. As this couple celebrates their 50th year together with family and friends, it will be apparent that the lasting legacy of this marriage will be the time, energy, and resources invested in their children, church, and community. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we celebrate a similar milestone.

The Drakes exemplify the highest commitment to the relentless dedication and sacrifice. Their commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I don't foresee there is any additional morning business to come, so I ask unanimous consent the period for morning business be brought to a close.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2260) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, let me begin to address this issue. I know Senator HOLLINGS is on his way to the floor, the ranking Democrat, who has worked so conscientiously on this, along with his staff and my staff. This is the appropriations bill which covers some very core agencies that the Federal Government has responsibility for, specifically areas of Justice, things like the FBI, the DEA, the INS; areas within Commerce—many areas, of course, are covered by the Commerce Department including, of course, the census issue. Equally important, in fact more important in many ways are ITA and NOAA, two agencies that deal with the manner in which the U.S. economy functions and the manner in which our environment is reviewed. We try to stay ahead of weather conditions.

In addition, this bill has the State Department—obviously the State Department is a core function of the Federal activity—and the judiciary, which is the third branch of the Government, that is also under this bill, along with a number of independent agencies, agencies like the FCC and the FTC and the Small Business Administration. So this is a bill that has broad reach and is a very significant item for the Senate to take up.

This funding bill has been put together as a result of the hard work of a lot of people. I especially thank my ranking member, Senator HOLLINGS, whose input and assistance is always invaluable on this issue. His background and knowledge of the questions which are raised on this bill are extraordinary. I look to him for advice and counsel on many issues. When we agree, we make great progress, which we have on this bill. This bill was reported out of the committee unanimously.

In addition, I thank my staff which has worked so hard, and minority staff which has worked so hard, and the other members of the committee.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GREGG. During the pendency of this bill, I ask unanimous consent floor privileges be made available to Jim Morhard, Paddy Link, Kevin Linskey, Carl Truscott, Dana Quam, Vas Alexopoulos, Kris Pickler, Lila Helms, Emelie East, Dereck Orr, and Virginia Wilbert.

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

Mr. GREGG. That request also included members of the minority staff.

Mr. President, this bill, S. 2260, is, as I mentioned, a bipartisan bill. It was reported out of committee unanimously. It is a bill that allocates \$33.2 billion for fiscal year 1999. The bill provides \$1.1 billion more than was spent on these agencies last year. I will explain the reasons for those increases as we go on. It is \$3.6 billion less than what the President requested.

It is a lean bill. There were difficult decisions that had to be made. But the legislation supports the core functions which are required of these agencies while improving a number of activities pursued by these agencies.

We provide \$17.8 billion for the Justice Department. This includes funds to combat terrorism, violence against women and children, illegal drug running, and cybercrime, along with many other worthwhile programs.

I am proud to say the committee included a total of \$17.2 million to bolster programs that help law enforcers find and care for missing children. This bill furthers our goals of making communities safer for our children.

You may recall last year the committee increased funding for the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to prevent the use of the Internet to exploit children. Based on the follow-up hearings we held this year, I believe those funds have been put to good use. The Center was involved in recovering 4,878 children this year with an overall recovery rate of 90.3 percent. The Center increased the hours of operation for their phone tip hotline and created a web site on the Internet for public use. The hotline, in conjunction with the web site, should lead to more pedophile apprehension. The Center also provides special training for local law enforcement people at the Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center about how to pursue missing children. This is a serious issue, missing children, and we are trying to address it aggressively in this bill.

As part of this effort, we have recommended \$5.2 million for the FBI to combat child abductions and serial killing.

The FBI has put together an exceptional task force to address the issue of child abductions and serial killings.

The tragic school shootings in the past few months that have shocked the

Nation are also a concern of ours. According to the National School Safety Center, 25 students have been killed in U.S. schools since January 1 of this year. This is the same number of students who were killed for the full 1996 school year, but in half the time.

For this reason, the Senator from South Carolina and I created a new Safe Schools Initiative which provides \$210 million to introduce a positive law enforcement presence in our school systems. By working together with educators and local communities, we believe law enforcers can find ways to stop the escalation of murders and violence in our schools. The funding is found in three Department of Justice accounts: \$175 million from Community Orientated Policing (COPS) for additional officers; \$25 million for the Juvenile At-Risk Children's Program for prevention efforts; and \$10 million from the National Institute of Justice to develop new, more effective safety technologies. These funds will be used by local law enforcers in partnership with schools and communities to develop programs to improve safety in our schools.

I congratulate and appreciate the support of the Senator from South Carolina in developing this new initiative. Our intention is to provide educators with the means to improve hostile environments. We must make sure that violence does not become a commonplace event in our school systems.

In addition to this new Safe Schools Initiative, we fund many of the out-of-school programs for children that will likely be familiar to you. We increase funding for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program which brings young people together with responsible adults willing to serve as long-term mentors. These programs give students positive reinforcement while expanding their horizons while taking up those hours of the day when students are most at risk—the time right after school.

There are prevention programs, such as the National Crime Prevention Council, whose well known mascots of McGruff and Scruff make learning safety tips fun, or Parents Anonymous which advocates prevention of child abuse and which will be creating an immediate-response system with the fiscal year 1999 funding.

Many States have youth programs tailored to their communities, and these communities may be eligible for Federal grants to assist in the areas of education, research, prevention, and rehabilitation. These are the types of programs the committee is supporting by placing \$284 million in the juvenile justice programs account.

I stress here that we have not tried to reinvent the wheel. We have supported programs that work, and we have turned to communities to give us their ideas as to how these funds should be allocated.

Also in line with youth support, the committee is recommending \$12 mil-

lion to expand the Youth Gang Program and \$95 million for incentive grants for local delinquency programs, including \$25 million to enforce underage drinking laws.

Most of the programs I have mentioned are prevention programs to work with youth, but there is more to this process. The committee, with help from the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Youth Violence, added \$100 million for the juvenile accountable incentive block grant. These funds will go towards functions that are in place to emphasize accountability to juveniles after they have committed crimes, such as detention facilities and probation officers.

The committee recommends an increase to \$282 million for the Violence Against Women Program. According to the Justice Department, violence by an intimate accounts for 21 percent of the violent crime experienced by women. Our legislation increases the number of law enforcers and prosecutors who will address these crimes. Our intent is to develop and implement effective arrest and prosecution policies in order to provide better handling of crimes against women. Women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita crime rates of intimate violence. Therefore, the committee is providing \$10 million within the funding level for the prevention of violence on college campuses. By doing so, we will be helping the women who are most at risk.

Many of our colleagues are familiar with the story of Megan Kanka who was killed by her neighbor, a convicted sex offender, in New Jersey in 1994. Congress subsequently passed Megan's law that asks States to require its violent sex offenders to register their address with government officials upon their release from prison. To further this effort, this bill contains \$25 million for the National Sex Offender Registry to identify, collect, and exchange sex offender data from the States through an automated registry.

Further, the bill includes \$45 million to assist States in improving the automation, accuracy, and completeness of criminal history records. This will facilitate the exchange of interstate information.

In addition, we add money for the DNA programs so that States will be able to communicate effectively with each other on the issues of DNA.

The balance that we tried to reach was between those areas of prevention where we can assist children, especially children in school, and give them leadership when they are out of school during those difficult hours, with the need to have a tough enforcement process, and that enforcement process has been adequately funded and aggressively funded as a result, in large part, of the Senator who is sitting in the Chair right now whose leadership on the issues of juvenile justice is primary in this body.

Another area of Justice activity we have addressed is the terrorism issue.

Terrorism continues to be a primary concern and threat to our country, so the committee is continuing to support a strong counterterrorism policy, something we began a couple of years ago with the work of Senator HOLLINGS and myself.

The Attorney General is working on a counterterrorism strategy that should be completed by the end of the year. We look forward to the completion of that plan, and we are recommending \$224 million for counterterrorism initiatives.

Our counterterrorism recommendation is comprehensive. A portion of this funding will go to the first-responder training and equipment as the Nation must be able to quickly react to a terrorist incident. Another portion will provide funding for specific programs to build this capacity, such as metropolitan medical strike team training and equipment, the acquisition of equipment for the largest cities and localities in the United States, the implementation of situational exercises, State and local bomb detection and technician equipment, and equipment grants for local fire and emergency agencies. The intent of the committee is to provide direct assistance to the first responders as well as to guide our national policy toward a coordinated and effective response.

We also recommend significant funding for State and local law enforcers to have the same training and equipment as their Federal counterparts. The committee recognizes the need for the Federal, State, and local law enforcers to work together, especially in addressing a terrorist attack.

We provide funding for the FBI to prepare for terrorist attacks. The issue of terrorism is a two-fold event—one of trying to stop it and anticipate it through intelligence and, second, trying to react when such an unfortunate incident occurs. We have aggressively funded the FBI initiatives.

As part of the counterterrorism effort, we enable the Attorney General to quickly receive reimbursements from other agencies as well as to acquire the necessary equipment and services during a terrorist crisis.

We have further requested the Attorney General to conduct a no-notice, counterterrorism-readiness exercise involving the leadership of all pertinent agencies. We look forward to the results of that exercise.

This is just a brief summary of some of the elements of our counterterrorism strategy. Obviously, some parts of it have to remain classified, but our purpose is to have a comprehensive, all-encompassing response to what is clearly one of the biggest issues facing our country.

Are we prepared for a terrorist attack at this time? No, we are not. Are we moving in the right direction to get prepared for such an attack? Yes, we are. Having visited almost all the agencies that are involved, those that are in our purview of jurisdiction and those

outside our purview of jurisdiction, the one thing I have been most impressed with is a sincere and genuine effort to have a coordinated response to this issue, and there appears to be very little in the way of a turf fight going on, which is absolutely critical that we avoid in trying to address this issue.

In the area of drugs, we also have a major effort. The strategy includes \$24 million for DEA's methamphetamine initiative and \$13 million for the heroin strategy. To also combat methamphetamine production and trafficking, we are recommending a \$15.5 million methamphetamine program through the COPS program.

The Senator from South Carolina and I have worked with the DEA Administrator to create regional drug enforcement teams to address the strategies of the cartels. The committee directs \$21.8 million for this effort, and there is an additional \$5.6 million provided to handle the influx of violent drug-trafficking groups based in the Caribbean.

We included also \$25 million for S. 1605, the "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act," sponsored by my friend and colleague from Colorado, Senator CAMPBELL, and signed by the President on June 16. This funding will go to law enforcement officers for the purchase of bulletproof vests.

The committee recommends a new initiative which provides \$144 million to improve law enforcement in Native American communities. The funds come from a variety of agencies. However, we have seen, unfortunately, that adequate law enforcement in Native American communities is woefully lacking, and there are a number of initiatives which we have undertaken in this bill to try to assist those communities.

In the area of the INS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, this bill provides \$3.9 billion. We want to equip the INS with the means to manage its two-pronged duty of law enforcement and legal immigration. On the enforcement end, we are recommending an additional 1,000 Border Patrol agents for the borders and a 100-person integrated team designed to intercept illegal aliens traveling on highways in the South and Midwest in order to counteract problems arising in the interior of the country.

When we take these 1,000 agents and add them on top of the 1,000 agents we put in last year, we are making a huge personnel expansion in the INS in the area of the Border Patrol where the problem exists.

For the second prong, the administrative portion, we provide sufficient funding that is enhanced by technology. The INS construction and maintenance has been woefully underfunded in the past years, and we recommend more than a 33 percent increase. The \$110 million level will strengthen training, border control, and detention and deportation.

Detention space shortfalls and the naturalization backlog will benefit

from the increased revenues from revived fees. Where possible, new technology should ease the burden on our overworked personnel.

Of note, this bill does not address the INS reform issue. Reform is needed in that agency, but it is too complex an issue to address in the context of this appropriations bill. Clearly, it needs to be addressed in the future and, hopefully, in the near term.

In the Commerce Department we have provided \$4.9 billion. The committee provides funding requested by the President for the U.S. Trade Representative and the International Trade Commission, and a variety of other international trade activities, including ITA, at funding levels which are more than adequate to address the concerns in trade which are so critical to strong commerce. Commerce Department programs are supported specifically at a level that will adequately do the job that is required.

In the area of the census, we have put in \$848 million, over a half-million dollars. This is the amount that was requested. We have not addressed the issue of the question of the proper way to count the census. The decennial census is important not just for the apportionment of Representatives in the House of Representatives but for many of the formulas that create grants to the States.

The dress rehearsal for the census raised several issues which deserve congressional scrutiny. This occurred recently in two cities in the United States. Going into the dress rehearsal, the Census Bureau did not have in place software which could detect duplicate or fraudulent census forms. The inability of the Bureau to test such an important system during the dress rehearsal is troubling.

The keystone of any census is the mailing list. In this bill, additional funds are provided to assist the Bureau in "re-engineering" its mailing list. The forms returned as "undeliverable as addressed" during the rehearsal were twice the number estimated by the Census Bureau. Mailing list problems varied in three locations in which the dress rehearsal was conducted.

The purpose of the dress rehearsal is, of course, to identify shortcomings which must be corrected in order for the decennial census to be successful. The Census Bureau is behind in its efforts to create its Master Address File for the decennial census. Also, reports of mail address problems from the dress rehearsal do nothing to increase the confidence that the address list "re-engineering" will be successful. During the dress rehearsal, maps for enumerators to follow up with those not responding to the census were found to be hard to read and, in some instances, inaccurate.

A successful census will require a good mailing list, a way to detect fraudulent or duplicate forms, and maps to permit enumerators to follow up on nonresponsive citizens. We will

spend billions of dollars on the year 2000 census. We should expect these basic elements to be in place for the dress rehearsal. They were not, and this should concern every Senator.

We need to know what is going to happen with the census when it occurs. Clearly, there is a fight going on over whether there should be sampling. But one thing is obviously clear from the dress rehearsal: Whether there was sampling or whether there was not sampling—whether there was a head count or not—the census is not ready to go forward and a lot needs to be done.

The bill funds the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) programs at a level of \$646.7 million. This level will enable NIST to upgrade its facilities and to build a state-of-the-art Advanced Measurement Laboratory. NIST's activities are actually critical to American industry. They are especially important now where exporters are running into trade barriers which are sometimes technically applied to them, and this can assist them in being more responsive to these technical barriers.

The committee also funds the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at \$2.2 billion. This exceeds the requested level. This committee is totally committed to being sure that we have a first-class NOAA effort. Clearly, in light of what we have seen from El Nino and other weather events in this country in recent times, it is absolutely critical that we have a strong Weather Service. And the need to expand our activity in the area of ocean activities is also equally critical.

NOAA advises us that they are getting near to the ability to adequately forecast an El Nino type of event, and we intend to make sure they have the funds to accomplish that. In addition, this year's budget request includes the Advanced Hydrological Prediction System, which should assist in forecasting floods in the Missouri flood basin, an absolutely critical issue, as well as the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System which the National Weather Service needs.

Further, we have created a new Oceans Policy Commission. This is basically the outgrowth of an initiative of, again, the Senator from South Carolina. As some may recall, NOAA was initially created under the Nixon administration by Executive order. The idea for an agency to conduct research on oceans and atmosphere came as an outgrowth of the Stratton Commission, which was created in the 1960s. I think it is fair to say that the Senator from South Carolina and I believe the time has come to reinvigorate and assess the state of U.S. ocean policy and research. This commission will accomplish that.

In the area of the State Department and its related agencies, we have provided \$5.6 billion. We are totally committed to modernizing the information technology and facilities, and espe-

cially housing, of the State Department. The committee recommended \$118 million, the full request, for computers and communications equipment. This funding is an essential part of achieving the year 2000 compliance. Another \$5 million is provided for systems unique to the United States Information Agency. And \$550 million, approximately, is provided for the security and maintenance account, and \$52.9 million is allocated for desperately needed housing. Finally, we fund the design of two new chanceries in Beijing and Berlin and anticipate funding the construction in next year's bill.

As for the international accounts, the committee recommends \$1.1 billion for international organizations and \$431 million for peacekeeping. Though the administration did not request it, the committee recommendation includes \$475 million for arrears. The \$475 million is consistent with the State Department authorization bill and the 1998 budget resolution. This year's payment brings the total available for arrears to \$575 million. That is the amount that the U.N. requested. And we are on course to full funding of the arrears. With a stroke of the pen, the President can restore the credibility of the United States at the U.N. by simply signing the appropriate legislation—specifically, the State Department authorization bill which was agreed to. So the Congress has done its part and continues to do its part on funding the arrears issue.

The problem lies with the White House.

Finally, because of the crisis in India and Pakistan, we fully fund the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

In the area of the Judiciary, out of a total of \$3.6 billion, we recommended full funding for the Judiciary's highest priorities: court security, defender services, and the Supreme Court. The remaining accounts receive increases across the board, although not all at levels that they were requested. We also include a cost-of-living adjustment for the justices and the judges.

We, as I mentioned, have a number of independent agencies. In regard to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), we are funding that at the levels they requested. However, there remains the issue of the Portals II building. I am sure there will be considerable discussion of that before we complete this bill, but the fact is that there has been gross mismanagement relative to the Portal II building. The FCC should not be forced into moving into a building that does not meet its requirements from the standpoint of technology or security, and that building is really a total affront to the taxpayers of this country—that being the fact that we continue to pay for uninhabited space which is uninhabitable space as well as being uninhabited.

In the Federal Trade Commission, we have aggressively worked with the leadership of the Federal Trade Com-

mission, Chairman Pitofsky, to pursue an aggressive program on telemarketing fraud. Consumers lose anywhere from \$3 billion to up to \$40 billion a year as a result of telemarketing fraud. We are seeing a great expansion of this activity, especially on the Internet. The committee is working with the Commission and has set up a new program to try to address this, including an 800 number. The Commission feels quite confident this will have a significant impact on the problem.

The Small Business Administration is also funded at a high level, \$613 billion. Of this, \$240.8 million goes to business loans and \$94 million goes for the disaster loan account.

Of concern to the committee is the administration's request to increase the disaster loan interest rate. This request was soundly rejected. The committee has made it clear to the SBA and the administration that increasing the interest rates on loans to Americans who have experienced disasters is unacceptable. The administration should reverse its ill-considered proposal to make disaster victims pay market rates for assistance in recovering from economic injury.

I thank the Senator from South Carolina for his strong assistance in helping with this bill. There is a great deal more to talk about, and I am sure we will have plenty of time to do that as we proceed forward.

I thank the Senator from South Carolina for his courtesy for that long statement. I understand we may break at 12:30, so he may want to reserve his statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I think the distinguished chairman has stated it extremely well.

Mr. President, I am pleased to join my Subcommittee Chairman and colleague, Senator GREGG, in presenting to the Senate S. 2260, the Fiscal Year 1999 Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and related agencies appropriations bill. Once again, I would like to commend Chairman GREGG for his outstanding efforts and bipartisan approach in bringing to the floor a bill that—given the number of priorities we have been asked to address within our limited 302(b) allocations—is good and balanced.

In the Commerce, Justice, and State appropriations bill, we fund a wide variety of Federal programs. We fund the FBI, the DEA, the State Department and our embassies overseas, fisheries research, the National Weather Service and weather satellites, the Supreme Court, the Federal Communications Commission, and the list goes on and on. In total, this bill provides \$33.2 billion in budget authority which is a little over a billion above last year's appropriated levels and a little over a billion below the President's request. The bill is right at our section 302(b) allocation.

Chairman GREGG has touched on many of the funding specifics in this

bill, so I will not repeat the details; however, I would like to point out to our colleagues some of the highlights of this bill:

#### JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

This bill provides appropriations totaling \$17.8 billion for the Department of Justice. Within the Justice Department, the bill provides \$2.95 billion for the FBI, \$1.2 billion for the DEA, and \$1.08 billion for the U.S. attorneys.

Safe Schools Initiative—The bill also includes a new initiative, the Safe Schools Initiative for which Senator GREGG and I have provided \$210 million in an effort to combat violence in our schools.

This past spring it seemed like there wasn't a week that went by without the country having to suffer through the trauma of watching on the news another story of school shootings or school violence unfold. And the ages of the victims and the violent youth get younger and younger with each report.

National statistics provided by the Justice Department indicate that between 1989 and 1995, there has been a 37 percent increase in the number of students age 12-19 reporting violent crimes at school. In 1995, there were 3 million students age 12-19 reporting that they knew a student who brought a gun to school, and over 1.2 million students reported seeing a student with a gun at school.

The idea behind this initiative is to stop violence from spreading throughout our Nation's schools like so many drugs have.

This initiative is aimed at protecting our children by putting more police in the school setting. The bill provides \$175 million through the COPS Program, for local police departments and sheriff's offices to work with schools and other community-based organizations to develop programs to improve the safety of elementary and secondary school children and educators in and around our nation's schools.

In Richland County, Columbia, I recently visited a school that employed a police officer as both a teacher and a mentor—serving as an authoritarian figure while at the same time establishing friendships with the kids. We need more programs like this—and this initiative is a step in that direction.

This initiative is also aimed at creating prevention programs for our young people to stop this violence before it begins. The bill provides \$25 million from the Juvenile Justice At-Risk Children Program for communities to implement approaches unique to their particular problems. For example: State centers may provide accountability and responsibility training, violence reduction training, juvenile mentoring, training for teachers to recognize troubled children, parent accountability and family strengthening education.

In Richland County, Columbia, the same program that puts the policeman in the classroom has him out of the school fields after classes are over,

teaching students about responsibility, cooperation, and positive interaction.

Mr. President, three years ago, Richland County began a program of placing police officers in the school setting. This program, operating out of the Sheriff's office, places 20 certified police officers in high schools and middle schools throughout Richland County. The police officers are called "School Resource Officers" and basically serve as counselors, role models, and teachers. The officers assist teachers in the school by developing and teaching lesson plans that include: conflict resolution, law related education, psychology classes on drug abuse, and how to vocalize concerns rather than act out violence, etc.

This program is a proven success. Officer David Soto of Richland County, just named School Resource Officer of the Year, made 126 arrests at the school in his first year, 56 is the second, and only 36 this past year. His presence is most certainly making a difference. And this new initiative will too.

For grants, the bill provides \$1.4 billion for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program, \$282.7 million for Violence Against Women Program, \$711 million for State prison grants, \$552 million for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program, \$40 million for drug courts, and \$284 million for juvenile justice programs.

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The bill provides \$4.823 for the Commerce Department, an increase of \$572 million over this year.

\$451 million of that increase for the Department of Commerce went to the Bureau of the Census to fund the decennial census at the President's request level of \$848.5 million. The bill does not take a position on whether the Bureau should use statistical sampling or enumeration.

NIST's Advance Technology Program (ATP) is funded at last year's appropriated level of \$192.5 million, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program is funded at a level of \$106 million. Funding is extended for those centers affected by the existing sunset provision. The bill supports the bipartisan efforts of the 17 members of the Commerce Committee who voted to report out a reauthorization bill and the 20 cosponsors of that legislative proposal.

The International Trade Administration is funded at \$304 million.

The bill provides \$2.2 billion for NOAA, an increase of \$200 million over this year's funding level. Chairman GREGG and I have continued to work bipartisanly to keep a focus on our Oceans.

Oceans Commission funding. Senator GREGG and I have also included in this bill \$3.5 million in funding for the creation of an Oceans Commission. Thirty-two years ago, Congress enacted legislation that created a national commission (Stratton Commission) whose ideas have shaped our ocean policy for

almost thirty years. Resulting from the Commission was the creation of NOAA and enactment of such vital legislation as the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Marine Sanctuaries program. This Commission—modeled after the successful Stratton Commission—will look at U.S. ocean and coastal activities and report within 18 months on recommendations for a national policy.

Today half of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of our shores and more than 30 percent of the Gross Domestic Product is generated in the coastal zone. Our ocean and coastal resources that were once considered inexhaustible are severely depleted, and our wetlands and other marine habitats are threatened by pollution and human activities. Meanwhile, recent technological advances related to the oceans offer us new economic and scientific opportunities. In an effort to address the increasing environmental, economic, and scientific demands on our oceans, our ocean-related government bureaucracy has grown rapidly during the past three decades into a patchwork of regulations and programs. This Commission will give us insight into what direction our national policy should take to preserve, manage and use this limited resource during the next thirty years.

A number of marine user and interest groups have endorsed our efforts to create a new Ocean Commission, including: The American Coastal Coalition; the American Oceans Campaign; the American Sportfishing Association; the Center for Marine Conservation; the Coastal States Organization; the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education; the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment; the Jason Foundation; the National Fisheries Institute; the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations; and the World Wildlife Fund.

It is time for this country to reassess our national policy toward our oceans and this provision takes the first necessary step to get us moving in the right direction.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The bill includes \$5.6 billion for the Department of State and related agencies. Within the State Department, the bill provides \$550 million—an additional \$146.8 million above this year's level of funding—for security and maintenance of U.S. missions, including funding for the chancery in Beijing, China and Berlin, Germany.

The funding level also includes payment of international organization and peacekeeping funds, including \$475 million for U.N. arrears, subject to authorization.

International broadcasting is funded at \$333 million which includes voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and Radio Free Asia.

Mr. President, in summary, given the allocation we received, this is a good

bill. Many—but not all—of the administration's priorities were addressed to some extent. Likewise many—but not all—of the priorities for members were addressed to some extent. Tough decisions were made because of, on the one hand, the limited allocation, and on the other hand, the critical need to fund the Census, and 1,000 Border Patrol agents, and counterterrorism efforts, and the FBI's capabilities to combat child abductions, and DEA's continued war on drugs, and weather satellites, and critical fisheries research, and peacekeeping and the list goes on and on and on.

Mr. President, let me emphasize a couple of things. One, of course, is my gratitude for the outstanding leadership that Chairman GREGG has given our subcommittee in submitting this measure to the U.S. Senate. We worked around the clock to get this done, and no one has been more conscientious in trying to hold back spending.

The appropriation for State-Justice-Commerce is \$33.2 billion, slightly over a \$1 billion increase from this present year. This increase is accounted for by the fact that we had to provide for the Census, and what is due and owed to the United States, and for law enforcement. This increase, however, is actually \$1 billion less than what was requested of us by the President of the United States.

As should be emphasized, the Safe Schools Initiative, under the leadership of Chairman GREGG, provides a good \$175 million increment in the overall \$210 million appropriations with respect to school resource officers within the school system.

Some three years ago, in my own backyard of Richland County, SC, Sheriff Leon Lott came upon the idea of putting some of his deputies in troubled schools, rather than putting them all on the streets. Sheriff Lott's idea has been a tremendous success. There now are about 20 officers, school resource officers, in Richland County schools. In one particular school, one officer has made almost 250 arrests in one year. He made 156 arrests the first year, and then some 56 the second year, and now down to 36 this year—the dramatic decline in arrests shows that this program works, it reduces crime.

What really occurs is that these officers teach courses in law enforcement, teach respect for the law, and engage the students and the administration. Also, of course, they talk to the administration and know when a child is troubled or doesn't have any help from home and everything else of that kind, and they can more or less become a friend and mentor to the child.

In this day and age, we hear much talk about the family on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Three out of four women with children in school have a job. Now I don't believe that is the fault of the U.S. Senate and I don't believe that will be solved by the U.S. Senate. There are children who come to school who don't have a father, and

whose mother works. In essence, they don't have parental guidance. The teacher is called upon not just to teach but to substitute as a parent and keep law and order in the classroom. Teaching class, these officers will come to know the students well. They will serve as mentors and their understanding of the students will help them combat crime and prevent it before it starts. And in the afternoon they will participate in athletic events. Around the clock, these officers will become known and become role models.

Three million students last year attested that they knew of someone who brought a pistol or a knife onto school grounds, but that they didn't tell anyone because they didn't want to get involved and get themselves in trouble. But now with that officer engaged as he is around the classes and in the exercises in the afternoon, becoming a role model, trusted and known, these students just nudge, just point. The officer knows why they are pointing. They don't have to say anything. They are right on top of these situations. I think it is a tried and true, valid approach now to this problem of violence and death in America's public schools.

I commend Chairman GREGG on this particular initiative, the Safe Schools Initiative. I commend, of course, the leadership that we had under Sheriff Lott back in my own backyard that has gained acceptance for this particular program. Also, I think that you have to be able to mention the fact that we are taking care of the United Nations. We have not gotten into that Census sampling problem. That will have to be solved in conference. We do have an oceans initiative that the Ocean Commission—that was passed by the U.S. Senate almost unanimously. We reinstate more or less the old Stratton Commission of 32 or 33 years ago.

We need to update that. And we find that we have billions and billions to go up into space, but we can't find, seemingly, enough money for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for research and to get the attention of the public generally with respect to seven-tenths of the Earth's surface.

I would like to take a moment before closing to acknowledge and thank Senator GREGG's staff—Jim Morhard, Kevin Linsky, Paddy Link, Dana Quam, Karl Truscott, and Virginia Wilbert—and to my staff—Lila Helms, Emelie East, and Dereck Orr—for their hard work and diligence in bringing together a bill that does everything I have just mentioned and more. They have worked nonstop in a straightforward and bipartisan manner, and those efforts are evident in the product before the Senate today.

Mr. President, in closing I would like to make a few final comments about Scott Gudes who left my staff several weeks ago after working as minority clerk on this subcommittee for the last 4 years, and as majority clerk for the 4 years prior.

## TRIBUTE TO SCOTT GUDES

As Senator BYRD said about Scott Gudes 2 years ago, nobody knows better. Scott has worked with me on the Commerce, Justice, State bill for 8 years and it has been a privilege working with such an intelligent, diligent, hard-working, and genius staff member. Senator BYRD hit the nail on the head—Scott knows appropriations; Scott knows Senate procedure; and Scott has common sense better than anyone. His departure from my committee staff is a genuine loss to me, to everyone who had the opportunity to work with him, and to the United States Senate.

Scott began working with me in 1990 as majority clerk for the CJS Subcommittee and stayed with me in this position through this year. Before that he was hired by Senator STEVENS and worked for him, Senator STENNIS, and Senator INOUE on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee from 1986 to 1990 where he was responsible for all Department of Defense Operation and Maintenance accounts. During 1989 and 1990 he served as a subcommittee branch chief/assistant staff director and in this tenure on the Defense Subcommittee, Scott earned a reputation as handling the broadest and largest portfolio of any House or Senate appropriations staff.

This reputation followed him to the Commerce, Justice, State Subcommittee, where Scott became responsible for knowing the policy context and daily operations of a vast array of programs operated by four cabinet departments, the Departments of Justice, Commerce, State, and USTR, the Federal Judiciary, and 24 independent Federal agencies such as the FCC, SEC, FTC, LSC, EEOC—he was in a world of acronyms, yet he was able to tell you the current and historical status of each and every one of these agencies, he could assess their budgetary concerns, identify future year needs, and quickly determine the political astuteness of contemplated legislative action on any of the programs or agencies in the bill. He was our utility player—able to jump from satellites to fisheries to telecommunication to immigration policy to small business development, demonstrating his technical expertise and political acumen in the broadest array of programs imaginable.

Scott deserves the credit for a number of innovative and forward-thinking initiatives on the CJS bill during his tenure. His creativity compelled the subcommittee to consider and adopt such important initiatives as the NOAA fleet modernization program, acquisition of a high-altitude hurricane reconnaissance aircraft for the National Weather Service, methods of supporting the COPS on the Beat program, ways to hire and keep funding more border patrol agents, successfully integrating the 1994 Violence Against Women Act into our appropriations bill, finding ways to make the GOES satellite program start working under

the necessary time table—the list could go on. But the important thing to note is that more often than not, Scott's recommendations at how best to technically and politically institute these initiatives were the recommendations we would follow, whether in the majority or minority.

Scott is now working for the Department of Commerce at NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as Deputy Undersecretary of NOAA. Scott has followed his passions—the oceans, fisheries, atmospheric science—and NOAA, the Department of Commerce, and we as U.S. citizens reaping the benefits of NOAA's programs are all the better for Scott's high position in this agency. Scott will undoubtedly excel at this position just as he had here in the Senate, before that at OMB, as a Presidential Management Intern working in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and at the city manager's office for the city of Costa Mesa, California. Scott is indeed a fine, fine person—NOAA is lucky to have him, and I expect to see his star shine for many, many years to come. I wish Scott all the best in the world—and know that in whatever position in life Scott finds himself, his decency, intelligence, and integrity will continue to be synonymous with his name. Congratulations, Scott. You will truly be missed.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Chairman GREGG and Senator HOLLINGS on their leadership in crafting the Fiscal Year 1999 Commerce, Justice, and State, the judiciary, and related agencies appropriation bill. Given the broad reach of this measure and our budgetary constraints, this was no easy task.

From a parochial standpoint, I wish to thank the Chairman and Senator HOLLINGS for their sensitive consideration of programs of importance to the State of Hawaii, including the East-West Center, Hawaiian monk seal recovery, endangered sea turtle research, and coral reef research, assessment, monitoring and management, to name a few.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding work of the staff: Jim Morhard, Kevin Linskey, Paddy Link, Dana Quam, Vasiliki Alexopoulos, Lila Helms, and Emelie East.

Finally, I would like to thank Scott Gudes for his many years of dedication to the Senate Appropriations Committee, and in particular, the Defense and Commerce, Justice, and State Subcommittees. Throughout the years, Scott worked tirelessly and conscientiously, and garnered the deep respect of Members and staff who had the privilege of working with him. Scott recently left the Senate to become Deputy Under Secretary at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I wish him much success and fulfillment in this new endeavor.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3227

(Purpose: To establish a prohibition on commercial distribution on the World Wide Web of material that is harmful to minors, to persons under 17 years of age)

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] proposes an amendment numbered 3227.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. 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:

On page 135, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

## Title I. —

## SEC. 620. (a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (f), (g), (h), and (i), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

“(e)(1) Whoever in interstate or foreign commerce in or through the World Wide Web is engaged in the business of the commercial distribution of material that is harmful to minors shall restrict access to such material by persons under 17 years of age.

“(2) Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined not more than \$50,000, imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

“(3) In addition to the penalties under paragraph (2), whoever intentionally violates paragraph (1) shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$50,000 for each violation. For purposes of this paragraph, each day of violation shall constitute a separate violation.

“(4) In addition to the penalties under paragraphs (2) and (3), whoever violates paragraph (1) shall be subject to a civil fine of not more than \$50,000 for each violation. For purposes of this paragraph, each day of violation shall constitute a separate violation.

“(5) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this subsection that the defendant restricted access to material that is harmful to minors by persons under 17 years of age by requiring use of a verified credit card, debit account, adult access code, or adult personal identification number or in accordance with such other procedures as the Commission may prescribe.

“(6) This subsection may not be construed to authorize the Commission to regulate in any manner the content of any information provided on the World Wide Web.

“(7) For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘material that is harmful to minors’ means any communication, picture, image, graphic image file, article, recording, writing, or other matter of any kind that—

“(i) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

“(ii) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

“(iii) lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

“(B) The terms ‘sexual act’ and ‘sexual contact’ have the meanings assigned such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (h) of such section, as so redesignated, is amended by striking “(e), or (f)” and inserting “(f), or (g)”.

(b) AVAILABILITY ON INTERNET OF DEFINITION OF MATERIAL THAT IS HARMFUL TO MINORS.—The Attorney General, in the case of the Internet web site of the Department of Justice, and the Federal Communications Commission, in the case of the Internet web site of the Commission, shall each post or otherwise make available on such web site such information as is necessary to inform the public of the meaning of the term “material that is harmful to minors” under section 223(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by subsection (a) of this section.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3228 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3227

(Purpose: To direct the Federal Communications Commission to study systems for filtering or blocking matter on the Internet, to require the installation of such a system on computers in schools and libraries with Internet access, and for other purposes)

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN], for himself, Mr. COATS and Mrs. MURRAY, proposes an amendment numbered 3228 to Amendment No. 3227.

Mr. COATS. Mr. 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 end of the pending amendment, add the following:

## TITLE II.—INTERNET FILTERING

## SECTION 1. NO UNIVERSAL SERVICE FOR SCHOOLS OR LIBRARIES THAT FAIL TO IMPLEMENT A FILTERING OR BLOCKING SYSTEM FOR COMPUTERS WITH INTERNET ACCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(1) IMPLEMENTATION OF A FILTERING OR BLOCKING SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No services may be provided under subsection (h)(1)(B) to any elementary or secondary school, or any library, unless it provides the certification required by paragraph (2) or (3), respectively.

“(2) CERTIFICATION FOR SCHOOLS.—Before receiving universal service assistance under subsection (h)(1)(B), an elementary or secondary school (or the school board or other authority with responsibility for administration of that school) shall certify to the Commission that it has—

“(A) selected a system for computers with Internet access to filter or block matter deemed to be inappropriate for minors; and

“(B) installed, or will install as soon as it obtains computers with Internet access, a system to filter or block such matter.

“(3) CERTIFICATION FOR LIBRARIES.—Before receiving universal service assistance under subsection (h)(1)(B), a library that has a computer with Internet access shall certify to the Commission that, on one or more of its computers with Internet access, it employs a system to filter or block matter deemed to be inappropriate for minors. If a library that makes a certification under this paragraph changes the system it employs or ceases to employ any such system, it shall notify the Commission within 10 days after implementing the change or ceasing to employ the system.

"(4) LOCAL DETERMINATION OF CONTENT.—For purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3), the determination of what matter is inappropriate for minors shall be made by the school, school board, library or other authority responsible for making the required certification. No agency or instrumentality of the United States Government may—

"(A) establish criteria for making that determination;

"(B) review the determination made by the certifying school, school board, library, or other authority; or

"(C) consider the criteria employed by the certifying school, school board, library, or other authority in the administration of subsection (h)(1)(B)."

(b) CONFORMING CHANGE.—Section 254(h)(1)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)(1)(B)) is amended by striking "All telecommunications" and inserting "Except as provided by subsection (l), all telecommunications".

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I know the hour of 12:30 has arrived, but I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute past the recess time.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the manager and the Democrat ranking member for allowing us to lay down these two amendments. We will be glad to discuss and debate them at a time most convenient for the managers of the bill.

I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:14 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ROBERTS).

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3228

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The business before the Senate is Amendment No. 3228 offered by Senator MCCAIN of Arizona.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I thank Senator GREGG for giving me a few minutes to speak in morning business. I ask unanimous consent that I might do so.

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

(The remarks of Mr. SMITH of Oregon pertaining to the introduction of the legislation are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is the McCain No. 3228 amendment to Amendment No. 3227.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to join my colleague from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, in urging the Senate to adopt our Internet filtering amendment, the Childsafe Internet bill.

We come here today for one simple reason: to find a way to protect children on the Internet. The Internet is growing and expanding faster than we ever thought possible. It has become a daily tool for many Americans. As the Internet continues to grow, I believe it is our responsibility to do something to protect children from harmful material.

I have worked hard over the last 6 years to get computers and technology into our schools. I have sponsored legislation to allow surplus Government computers to be put into schools. The Senate, in fact, just passed my Teacher Technology Training Act, to make sure teachers can incorporate technology into their curriculum.

I have worked hard to establish the e-rate to help our schools get connected to the Internet. I have been out in schools, and I know personally what a great educational tool the Internet can be. And I represent a state that is leading the way in many of these new technologies.

I want our students and I want our teachers to have access to this information. But, as we continue to see, there is a small amount of information on the Internet to which children should simply not have access.

In fact, a 1997 national survey of U.S. public libraries and the Internet revealed that students often unintentionally download pornography while on the Net. Mr. President, 22 percent of the children surveyed admitted that this had happened in school, while 25 percent admitted it had occurred in a public library.

I understand no solution is perfect. Technology alone won't filter every objectionable item on the Internet. We must remember, though, that this technology has made enormous strides in just a short amount of time.

I have heard from people who say health information, such as breast cancer, would be blocked from viewing. That may have been the case, but filtering companies have developed new technologies and are employing new procedures that do protect children while allowing more and more educational information to be used.

Our legislation is a first step. It is the right thing to do. The Childsafe Internet bill would simply require any school or library that gets reduced Internet access, the e-rate, to install some technology on their computers that keeps inappropriate material away from young children.

What is great about our bill is that it gives power to local school districts and libraries to determine which filtering device to use and what constitutes

inappropriate material. Decisions must remain at the local level with those who best know their students.

Mr. President, let me give a few examples I have heard of the need for the Childsafe Internet Act.

Last month, a seventh grade teacher in Washington state told me that it was impossible to watch 30 young students at their computers all of the time. She did not want a situation in which a child found inappropriate material, complained to their parents, and then have a parent come screaming back to the classroom, where the teacher was ultimately responsible. She turned off the Internet.

I do not want that to happen. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a number of letters I have received from parents about the need for this bill.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

APRIL 19, 1998.

DEAR SENATORS: You were both in Vancouver this week, and I wasn't able to reach you through your office. Would you please update me on the status of SB 1619 the Internet School Filtering Act? In SW Washington, the regional group reported that they are the state internet provider service is looking at filtering at the state level as a result of SB 1619. As you can see from this report, filtering isn't perfect. However, without any filtering, far more youth at much younger ages come up with inappropriate material.

In Camas, pop. 9000, elementary students are not allowed to do searches on the internet for this reason. There is no reason to allow technology to serve as an excuse for lowering standards of acceptable material in publicly funded institutions. The Camas library continues to fight filtering, and points to the schools lack of one as justification. The Ft. Vancouver library board most recently on Monday April 13 though optional filtering was a good idea. That defeats the whole purpose and keeps the porn option wide open to kids. I hope you got my report of abuses noted. If they had a log like this, I'm sure the number of accesses reported would be much higher. Please continue to work so that our tax dollars do not fund porn and inappropriate material to children. Thank you for your time to reply please. E-mail is best, since it is faster, and a number of meetings are coming up the first week in May.

Sincerely,

MARGARET TWEET.

MAY 29, 1998.

Senator Patty Murray,  
Attn: Kay

DEAR KAY: This also came out today. Ft. Vancouver records show one employee who quit rather than provide porn to minors with that as the stated reason. At the KOMO Town Hall, another Washington librarian announced she made the same decision after 6 months of wrangling over whether providing access to internet porn to a 14 year old patron was a part of her job she could live with. Adult businesses cannot sell pornography to children, an indication of public policy. It should not be an option for youth in libraries either. Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

MARGARET TWEET.