

addition, the Chamber serves as a network for local businesses and a coordinator between them and the government of Salem. The Chamber also fosters a general sense of community in Salem, by welcoming new residents and promoting consciousness of Salem's unique heritage.

In its role as coordinator, networker, and initiator, the Chamber has proven itself to be a crucial player in Salem's recent economic expansion. The city of Salem can boast a net gain of 900 jobs over the past five years. These gains are due in no small part to the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce.

With a century of success behind it, the Chamber is now working to secure the future prosperity of Salem. The Chamber regularly notifies businesses of education and training opportunities so that Salem's labor force can continue to adapt to the changing needs of the economy. Further, the Chamber was instrumental in developing the Tech Prep program, which provides 25 local high school students with internships that prepare them for future careers.

Throughout its history, the Chamber has proven itself to be an indispensable asset to the city of Salem and the state of Illinois. Again, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Chamber and all of its members and hope that their second century is as successful as their first.●

BETHESDA SEVEN/CARD CLUB VISIT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor seven people who visited our Nation's capitol from June 12 to June 15, 1998. Frank "The Gin Mill" Jonna, one of Gin's all time greatest players who began his career with Detroit Catholic Central and gained further fame as a Wayne State Tartar; Judy "The Wicked Wick" Jonna, one of Detroit's most prominent all around card players who was recently named one of the 50 best players in Concan history; Joe "The Professor" Sarafa, the legendary, steady utility man who never misses a beat when placed in the lineup on a moment's notice; Mike "The Dish" Sarafa, possibly the most exalted and prominent card shark of all time, far and away the most political player on the tour; Mariann "MB" Sarafa, initially named "All Telcaif" shopper but has since proven to be "All World" (also known to win a dish or two now and then while screaming "Ayoooooon Michael!"); Suzanne "The Maoon killer" Sarafa, easily the single greatest hustler in Concan history. She has been known to ask, in the middle of a game . . . "how many points do you need to go down?" while cramming money into that silly black wallet of hers; and Tony "The Silent Winner" Antone, the guy who never boasts, brags, or rubs in his victories (and there are many).

Mr. President, it is also worthy to note that while this incredibly fun

filled weekend was occurring, the Detroit Red Wings were on their way to winning their second straight Stanley Cup. The Bethesda Seven played a critical role in the Game 3 victory at the MCI Center by strategically sitting in different areas of the arena so as to keep the thousands of Red Wings fans fired up.

Mr. President, I truly thank the Bethesda Seven for their visit. ●

GEORGE OSTROM

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate a true Montanan and a great friend on his 70th birthday.

Anyone who has come to know George Ostrom through his radio broadcasts, his photographs, his writing, or who has been fortunate enough as I have to spend time personally with him has come away with a better understanding of the American West and Montana in particular.

I've known George for too many years to count. Among other things, he and I share a passion for hiking in general and for hiking in Glacier National Park in particular. You see George has spent most of his 70 years in and around the Park. To this day, he hikes with a group that he affectionately calls the "Over the Hill Gang." They hike once a week when the weather permits, usually between 30 and 40 times a year.

For years, George has invited me to join his friends for a hike. But you know how it is. Our schedules are busy and somehow I just never got around to it. Until last August. During our summer recess last year I joined up with George and his Over the Hill Gang. And what a day we had. We told stories (all of them were true, of course), shared water bottles and talked about our families, our hopes and our dreams. Mr. President, it was a day I will not soon forget.

Over the years, I had heard all about George's many awards including the honor bestowed on his weekly column "The Trailwatcher", which in 1996 was selected as the best weekly humor column in the United States by the National Newspaper Association. And I had seen many of his photographs of the Park in local and national magazines including Sports Afield, Field and Stream and Sports Illustrated.

But on that hike I came to know George Ostrom the man. A funny and engaging gentleman who will not quit until he gets where he is going. That spirit is Montana's spirit. An ideal that defines all of us. A common bond that all Montanans share.

Sadly, just a few days later, one of our group, Roger Dokken, fell to his death while hiking a different trail. Because of our time together, he was my friend—automatically. No politics, no agenda. Just two people doing together what they enjoy.

Through the triumphs and tragedies of life, George and his Over the Hill gang continue to hike on. They con-

tinue to embody what is good, what is right about Montana.

So Mr. President, as George and his family celebrate his 70th birthday, I send my congratulations confident that George Ostrum is still well shy of being over the hill.●

MANAGERS' AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT ACT

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today Senator THOMPSON and I, as sponsors of S. 981, the Regulatory Improvement Act of 1998, are putting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a proposed amendment we will offer when S. 981 is brought to the Senate floor for consideration. The amendment reflects changes to the bill we have agreed to make in response to a number of concerns about the bill identified by the Administration and Members of the Governmental Affairs Committee. We are putting it in the RECORD at this time, to make the language available to the public and persons interested in this bill. We are also putting into the RECORD today the letter of July 15th from Acting OMB Director Jack Lew, stating that the Administration will sign the bill if the changes included in the Managers' Amendment are made and the bill passes both Houses in the same form. We welcome the support of the Administration in this effort and hope we can get the bill to the floor as soon as possible.

OMB stated in their analysis of costs and benefits of federal regulations in 1997 that regulation has enormous potential for good and harm. "The only way," OMB said, "we know to distinguish between the regulations that do good and those that cause harm is through careful assessment and evaluation of their benefits and costs." S. 981 would build that careful evaluation into the regulatory process of all the regulatory agencies. OMB estimated that of the significant or major regulations currently in effect, we have received approximately \$300 billion in benefits at a cost of some \$280 billion. We know that through the appropriate use of cost benefit analysis and risk assessment we can improve those figures. In a well-respected analysis of 12 major EPA rules and the impact of cost-benefit analysis on those rules, the author, Richard Morgenstern, former Associate Assistant Administrator of EPA and a visiting scholar at Resources for the Future, concluded that in each of the 12 rule makings, economic analysis helped reduce the costs of all the rules and at the same time helped increase the benefits of 5 of the rules. Report after report acknowledges the importance of good cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment for all agencies. It's long past time to get these basic requirements into statute. S. 981 offers us the best opportunity to do that.

The Managers' Amendment Senator THOMPSON and I will be offering to S. 981 reconfirms our intention that the bill not diminish or affect an agency's