

one must understand the whole. The Committee has spend many months educating themselves—and this determined effort is paying off.

The majority and minority committee staff have been exchanging language and ideas in intense negotiations over the last several weeks. They are not debating principles, Mr. President, they are getting down to brass tacks. They are refining the language so that it reflects a consensus position on the issues. After all, we all agree—the Administration, the EPA, Republicans, Democrats and stakeholders—that RCRA needs to be fixed. The challenge now is putting the agreed-upon remediation waste reforms into legislative language.

Mr. President, Congressional Republicans and Democrats are working with the Administration and the agencies as a team. Our team is closer than ever to producing a bill that is fiscally and environmentally responsible. Our team is on the brink on introducing a bill that will be embraced by Congress and the Administration. Our team is within striking distance of a win for everyone.

The biggest winners, Mr. President, will be those affected by our bill. Industry, the states and the environmental community support our efforts towards reform because they know our goal is to speed up site cleanup and reduce agency bureaucracy.

When setting out to craft a targeted RCRA remediation waste bill in 1996, this same team focused on three primary goals. Today, my goals and that of the team are still the same.

First, I want to make RCRA work. I want it to work faster. I want it to work more cheaply. A RCRA reform bill is worthless if it does not clear these basic hurdles.

Second, I want to remove regulations that are counterproductive to cleanup and streamline decision-making. This will give EPA the flexibility it needs to get the job done. Current law keeps the EPA from removing some of the largest obstacles to clean-up, and the only way to fix the problem is by fixing current law.

Third, I want to give the states more authority over the management of these cleanup programs. States not only have the ability to do the job right, they have the resources and talent. These officials know how best to deal with the communities and counties impacted by the site and its clean-up.

Mr. President, I believe we are on the way to a final product that keeps faith with these goals.

I must take a moment now to commend the good work being done by the House Commerce Committee. Certainly the Senate could not have come so far so fast were it not for the efforts in the House. Our colleagues on the other side of the Capital have done a remarkable job, through stakeholder meetings and dialogs, to educate us all as to the potential implications of our actions. I know Senators CHAFEE, SMITH, BAUCAS,

and LAUTENBERG join me in commending the efforts of Chairmen BLILEY and OXLEY and their staff on this issue.

Mr. President, environmental clean-up programs only work if sites are truly being cleaned up. With over 5,000 RCRA sites nationwide, our work is cut out for us. I look forward to returning to the Senate floor in September to join my Senate colleagues in introducing our RCRA remediation waste reform legislation—a first step towards an effective and responsible RCRA program. Thank you.

#### TRIBUTE TO JEROLD KENNEDY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I join several of our colleagues in cosponsoring a bipartisan bill which will strengthen the manufactured housing industry. This legislation will benefit the fastest growing segment of the housing industry, while establishing a balanced process for the development, revision, and interpretation of Federal construction and safety standards. This legislation also focuses on the consumer.

In addition to announcing my cosponsorship, I want to pay tribute to Jerold Kennedy, a native Mississippian, entrepreneur, a business owner, and advocate for manufactured housing. Jerold championed reforms of the regulations controlling this segment of the marketplace. He worked for many years to advance legislation that would modernize the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Act of 1974. Today, I honor Jerold's efforts. S.2145 reflects those efforts, and Mr. Kennedy would be proud of S.2145.

This segment of the industry, to which Jerold dedicated his life, plays a vital role in making affordable, unsubsidized housing available for a wide range of Americans. First time home buyers, single parents, and senior citizens are just a few groups who greatly benefit from manufactured housing. This industry is responsible for one out of every three single-family homes sold last year. One-third! For less than \$40,000, millions of Americans can realize their dream of owning a home. This is an appealing alternative compared to the 5.3 million Americans who pay more than 50 percent of their income in rent.

In order for this industry to sustain such phenomenal growth and make affordable housing available, it is necessary to update the laws which regulate this industry. The Manufactured Housing Improvement Act (MHIA) will do just that, creating a process for keeping construction standards current, and enforcing the federal authority on those standards. S.2145 will be the first step in fixing the inadequacies which confront the manufactured housing industry today.

This bill will also create a private consensus committee made up of all interested parties. They will submit recommendations to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

(HUD). Recommendations which will serve as a valuable tool in revising the Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards in a timely manner. Additionally, this legislation will authorize HUD to use industry labeling fees to pay for any additional staff needed to do the new work. This user fee mechanism will remove a need for additional federal funding.

This legislation pays tribute to Jerold Kennedy, who passed on before S.2145 was introduced. I want Mrs. Kennedy, and their three children, to know that Jerold's legacy lives within this bill. Jerold Kennedy founded Belmont Homes, Inc., and dedicated 28 years of his life to the manufactured housing industry. Congress owes a great deal to Jerold Kennedy. His common sense approach to update the standards which regulate the industry are the foundation of S.2145. I hope this Congress can make his dream a reality. This legislation pays tribute to a man of integrity. His honesty, trustworthiness, and professionalism helped both the profession of which he was a part and the efforts to reform its public policy.

Mr. President, this legislation will address the recognized and acknowledged problems in HUD's manufactured housing program. S.2145 will provide real-world, viable solutions enabling the manufactured home industry to prosper, while providing consumers with even more benefits and protection.

#### PASSING OF BUCK MICKEL

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was a friend, a leading businessman, and one of the most public spirited South Carolinians I have ever had the honor to know, Buck Mickel, who passed away last week.

Buck is best known and remembered for his leadership of the Fluor Corporation, one of the leading construction companies in the world. Buck began his career with Daniel Construction Company, which would later merge with Fluor, in 1948 and he very quickly began his climb up the corporate ladder. By the beginning of 1965, he was elected President and General Manager, and in 1974, he was elected as Chairman of the Board, a position he retained until he retired in 1987.

Not surprisingly, a businessman who possessed the talents Buck did was respected and admired throughout the corporate community. As a result, he was asked to participate in many different ventures. He held more than twenty directorships and served on numerous boards. He was recognized with honors that included being named the 1983 "Businessman of the Year" by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, and being inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame.

In his role as a corporate executive, Buck certainly helped to make significant contributions to South Carolina