come together and share their experiences while learning more about successful farming and agri-business techniques. This conference was one of the first attempts to call attention to the specific roles women play in the agricultural world.

The following year, the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, China. It was at this international conference that a decision was made to call on the world's governments to finally measure and value uncompensated work by women, including agricultural labor, in their respective country's official statistics.

In 1997, President Clinton proclaimed October 15 as International Rural Women's Day. In doing so, he again brought to the world's attention that rural women comprise more than one-quarter of the world's population and form the basis of much of the world's agricultural economy. These important events provide a substantial foundation that we must continue to build upon.

The Second International Conference for Women in Agriculture, recently held here in our nation's capitol, continued to capitalize upon the efforts of the past by focusing on the status of women and their agricultural contributions to the world. Women from all parts of world, including my home state of Vermont, gathered to discuss and learn about the major concerns of women in agriculture.

Ten Vermonters, including farmers and representatives from the Vermont Department of Agriculture and the Vermont State Farm Bureau, attended the conference. Linda Aines, Beverly Bishop, Diane Bothfeld, Nancy Bruce, Kate Duesterberg, Bunny Flint, Debra Heleba, Sandra Holt, Martha Izzi, Lindsey Ketchel, Daphne Makinson, Kristin Mason, and Mary Peabody participated in the conference and contributed to the events with an extremely well-received exhibit of photographs and goods produced by Vermont women, including cheese and maple syrup. These women joined with representatives from throughout the country and the world to discuss agriculture issues while celebrating their roles as food producers. Issues ranged from protection from banned chemicals and hazardous equipment to biotechnology, some of the most debated and contentious agriculture issues facing our world today.

We need to continue to nurture the seed of promise and hope planted by the Women in Agriculture Conference. At the conclusion of the conference a caucus of women representatives, including Vermont's, presented a resolution declaring that the role and rights of women in agriculture should be respected and supported by the nations and societies they serve and that they be valued and consulted as equal partners in the production and trade of agricultural goods around the world. We must not ignore this resolution and the movement it represents. Mr. President, I ask that the text of resolution be placed in the RECORD after my remarks.

Women involved in agriculture around the globe deserve our appreciation and respect and have gone far too long without it. Conferences such as the one held in Washington bring attention to the plight of women in agriculture while aiding the communication between women in agriculture in the advanced world and women in the developing one.

A great deal more work needs to be done, however, before the dreams and ambitions of women involved in agriculture everywhere are realized. I implore all the members of Congress to join me in acknowledging our debts to the women of the agricultural world, celebrate their attempts to bring their work to the attention of the world, and help to make their ambitions and goals reality.

The resolution follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Whereas women are an integral and critical part of the global food production system, producing 65 percent of the world's food supply; and

Whereas a stable and reliable supply of safe and nutritious food is an essential component of human health and a hallmark of national prosperity, and is in the best interest of global security; and

Whereas maintaining an ample food supply depends on an agriculture that is respectful of those who work the land, respectful of the environment, and sustainable over the long term, be it therefore

Resolved, That the role and rights of women in agriculture must be respected and supported by the nations and the societies that they serve; that women involved in agriculture, whether by choice or by need, shall be valued and consulted as equal partners in the production and trade of agricultural goods, and that women in agriculture shall be valued and consulted as well in the best practicable methods of agricultural production to sustain human health, international prosperity, and the global environment.●

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ESTIMATES OF THE 1002 AREA

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the Nation's gold repository at Fort Knox, Kentucky is an acknowledged asset—cuddled, counted and cared for.

But the Nation has a potential ''black gold'' repository under the Arctic Oil Reserve (AOR) that is largely ignored by the Administration—denied, discounted and disputed.

Should someone try to tunnel under Fort Knox to borrow a few tons of gold from the vaults, retribution would be swift—remember ''Goldfinger''?

Yet safe, environmentally sound development at the edge of ANWR at the Sourdough site could potentially siphon off barrels of oil belonging to the U.S. Government. Where is James Bond when we need him?

Certainly not in the person of Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, the purported watchdog of the Nation's natural resources.

To the contrary, Secretary Babbitt put his head in the tundra back in 1995 and pronounced the Arctic Oil Reserve's oil possibilities to be very low at about 898 million barrels.

In May 1998, the Secretary's own scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey begged to differ. Their estimate based on three years of work by more than 40 geologists and other professionals is that a mean of 7.7 billion barrels of producible oil may reside in the 1002 Area of the AOR.

In the interest of looking at this amazing leap in the estimate of ANWR's producible oil, I chaired a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last week, and invited the U.S. Geological Survey to participate.

Three things rang clear at that hearing.

First, while these estimates were the highest ever and proved the 1002 area of the AOR has the greatest potential of securing our Nation's energy needs—they were extremely conservative.

For instance, these estimates were based on a minimum economic field size of 512 million barrels. When in practice the minimum economic field size in Alaska is much lower than that.

Northstar: 145 mm/bb (With a sub-sea pipeline) is deemed economic; Badami: 120 mm/bb is deemed economic; Liberty: 120 mm/bb is deemed economic Sourdough: 100+ mm/bb (adjacent to AOR) is deemed economic.

The Second fact that rang clear is while these new estimates show a clearer picture of the Western portion of the AOR, much remains unclear about the oil and gas potential of the massive structures present in the Eastern portion.

While the USGS has slightly downgraded the potential of that specific area, they do not have the data that industry has from actually drilling a well.

And I can assure you that those with knowledge of what that well contained—the select few—remain very optimistic about the potential oil and gas reserves of the Eastern portion.

Third, technology has increased so dramatically that we can now extract greater amounts of oil from wells with far less impact on the environment at a cost 30% less than 10 years ago.

Consider this, Mr. President. In June of 1994, Amerada Hess concluded the Northstar field in Alaska was uneconomic because development would exceed $1.2 billion and eventually sold the field to BP.

Today, BP expects to begin production of that field's 145 million barrels of reserves in 2000. Estimated development costs: $350 million—a 70% reduction from just 4 years ago.

Mr. President, all these factors point toward the logical conclusion that underlying the 1.5 million-acre oil reserve in Alaska lies greater reserves than recently estimated, and we need to confirm them with better science.

Dr. Thomas J. Casadevall, acting director of the USGS, was very clear in

his explanation that if the newer three dimensional (3D) seismic data were available from the Arctic Oil Reserve, their high May estimates of producible oil could soar even higher.

Casadevall explained that their new estimates, while supported by sound science and peer review, were still based on 2D seismic tests done more than a decade ago.

Kenneth A. Boyd, director, division of Oil and Gas of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, likened the advance of the new testing to the difference between an x-ray and a CAT-scan.

He said the available information from 2D seismic as opposed to 3D seismic is that the former produces a line of data while the latter produces a cube of data. The cube can be turned and examined from all sides and the geologic information proves invaluable for exploration.

This data has revolutionized exploration and development of the North Slope of Alaska. Modern 3–D data provides enhanced and incredibly accurate imaging of potential subsurface reservoirs.

This in turn reduces exploration and development risk, reduces the number of drilled wells, and in turn reduces both overall costs and environmental impacts.

Of course the Administration is under little pressure to allow testing or exploration of the Coastal Plain with gas prices at a 30-year low. However, the Department of Energy's Information Administration predicts, in ten years, America will be at least 64 percent dependent on foreign oil. It would take that same ten-year period to develop any oil production in AOR.

Therefore, it seems prudent to plan ahead to protect our future energy security.

I intend to introduce legislation that would allow 3D seismic testing on the Coastal Plain. This testing leaves no footprint. In fact, just last year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed such testing to be done in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, declaring such testing would have ''no significant impact.''

It would have even less impact on the frozen tundra in ANWR. It is also a possibility that the oil industry would be willing to share in the cost of such testing. Let's at least find out what kind of resource we are talking about.

It the Nation were to be crunched in an energy crisis—like the Gulf War—that would require the speedup of development; that development could impact the environment negatively because it would not have the benefit of thoughtful planning.

I believe it is as criminal as stealing gold to refuse to acknowledge the potential for producible oil in the Coastal Plain of the AOR. If we don't know what the resource is, how can we protect it or make an informed decision about its use?

And how can those in this Administration or the environmental community argue it is a bad idea to seek a greater understanding of our public lands?

If we are just guessing that the Sourdough drillers may have tapped an underground AOR vein then we deserve to lose the resource. It is time to get rid of the guesswork and 3D testing will help to do that.●

TRIBUTE TO ALAN J. GIBBS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who dedicated his life to public service, and who died leaving that legacy as a model for all of us.

Alan Gibbs began his career in Baltimore, Maryland. After serving several years on the National Labor Relations Board he joined the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission right here in Washington, D.C. His work at the EEOC was recognized by his peers when he received the Commission's meritorious service award. Wherever Alan served there was always public acknowledgment of his contributions. New York City, Seattle and my home state of New Jersey were fortunate beneficiaries of Alan's energy, tenacity and commitment to bettering the lives of others.

In 1977, Alan was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Army by President Carter. He was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Award—an honor not many are given but few deserve as much.

In New Jersey, Alan served as the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. During his tenure, Alan made sure that individuals were not lost in the shuffle or became faceless statistics. He was always compassionate and caring. The principle that guided his tenure, and is his most enduring legacy, was to give each individual the resources to live a life with dignity and hope. The job was not easy, but Alan got it done.

Alan also gave of his time to teaching. He recognized the importance of education and helped equip students for their careers.

Mr. President, I extend my deep condolences to Alan's wife Barbara, and their children Jordan, Philip and Cynthia. The outpouring of tributes to Alan are in reality a celebration of his life. I hope they bring comfort and a measure of joy in remembrance to his family.●

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH BENEFICIARY PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to add my name as a cosponsor to S. 2354, the ''Medicare Home Health Beneficiary Act of 1998''.

This bill amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to impose a moratorium on the implementation of the Interim Payment System (IPS) for home health agencies. This IPS was set up by Congress at the recommendation of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) as a transition to a Prospective Payment System. However, the IPS, along with surety bond requirements and other regulatory implementations of the Balanced Budget Act, has had a negative influence on the home health care providers and their patients, forcing many providers out of business.

The IPS has hurt home health care in Tennessee. For example, in Tennessee, the amount of funding each agency receives per patient per year was based on each agency's costs for Fiscal Year 1994. This method of calculation has the potential to penalize agencies who acted responsibly to hold down costs. One Tennessee provider, who had very low 1994 costs due to aggressive cost control, is concerned that the IPS may force them out of business. We cannot afford to sacrifice quality in home health care, and we must not punish agencies that have always tried to provide quality care at reasonable costs.

In addition, some home health providers who have a good reputation in their communities, built on years of service, did not submit a full cost report for Fiscal Year 1994 due to accounting methods. Regrettably, these agencies are now classified by HCFA as ''new agencies.'' If the agency is classified as a new agency, then their historic costs are disregarded in their reimbursement, and they will receive a payment based on a national average. Well, Mr. President, we know that the cost of care in Tennessee may be very different from the cost of care in another region. In fact, in Tennessee, home health costs tend to be higher than the national average. This will make it extremely difficult for these agencies to meet the IPS budget constraint.

Home health care provides a critical service to our nation's Medicare beneficiaries. The IPS was created to address some of the problems with cost control in the home health industry. However, it appears that this interim plan manages to create more problems than it solves. In fact, I believe it can do more harm than good. We need to impose a moratorium on IPS and encourage implementation of a system of fair reimbursement payment rates that ensures all home health providers are cost-effective without sacrificing quality of care for patients. We must find a way to terminate those agencies that take advantage of seniors and the Medicare system, while ensuring continuity of high quality home health care for our nation's most vulnerable populations.●

CURT FLOOD ACT

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, last night the Senate passed, on a voice vote, S. 53, a measure dealing with antitrust matters and Major League Baseball. Let the record show that if this bill had come before the Senate in a recorded vote, I would have recused myself on this vote.●