

(Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1957, a bill to provide for the payment of compensation to the families of the Federal employees who were killed in the crash of a United States Air Force CT-43A aircraft on April 3, 1996, near Dubrovnik, Croatia, carrying Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown and 34 others.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to expand the number of acres authorized for inclusion in the conservation reserve.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to enhance criminal penalties for election law violations, to clarify current provisions of law regarding donations from foreign nationals, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. THOMPSON) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 87, a resolution commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the International Visitors Program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 242—NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT THAT THE SENATE IS READY TO PROCEED TO BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 242

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the President of the United States that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

SENATE RESOLUTION 243—NOTIFYING THE HOUSE THAT THE SENATE IS READY TO PROCEED TO BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 243

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

SENATE RESOLUTION 244—EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAGIC FIRE AT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH ORANGE, NJ, ON JANUARY 19, 2000

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 244

Whereas at approximately 4:30 a.m. on January 19, 2000, a fire broke out in the com-

mons area on the third floor of Boland Hall, a six story residence hall housing 600 students at Seton Hall University, and this fire took the lives of three students—Frank S. Caltabilota of West Long Beach, New Jersey, John N. Giunta of Vineland, New Jersey and Aaron C. Karol of Green Brook, New Jersey, and, in addition, 58 persons were injured including 54 students, two South Orange firefighters and two South Orange police officers;

Whereas numerous Seton Hall students risked their own lives as the fire broke out to save the lives of their fellow dormitory residents;

Whereas firefighters, paramedics, police officers and other emergency personnel from the surrounding communities worked bravely into the early morning darkness to reduce casualties and extinguish the fire;

Whereas the entire Seton Hall University community has banded together in grief to remember the fallen students, and numerous people outside the university recognize the enormity of this tragedy and the need to do everything possible to keep it from happening again since every student should be able to pursue an education in a safe, secure environment: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its sympathy to the families and friends of Frank S. Caltabilota, John N. Giunta and Aaron C. Karol on the occasion of the funeral service on January 25, 2000;

(2) expresses its hope for a speedy recovery to those students, firefighters and police officers injured in the fire;

(3) expresses its support for all of the students, faculty and staff at Seton Hall University as they heal from the tragedy;

(4) expresses its support and thanks to the brave firefighters, paramedics, police and other emergency workers who saved numerous lives;

(5) pledges to ensure that Federal, State and local government entities work together to prevent a tragedy like this from occurring again, so that our nation's college students can live, work and study in the safest possible environment.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2000, 10 a.m., in SH-216 of the Senate Hart Building. The subject of the hearing is "Reducing Medical Error: A look at the Iom report." For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, SAFETY, AND TRAINING

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Subcommittee on Employment, Safety, and Training, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2000, 2:30 p.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is "Safe at Home: OSHA and the Modern Day Workplace." For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information

of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Subcommittee on Public Health, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2000, 9 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is "Gene Therapy: Promoting Patient Safety." For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

INTERSTATE WASTE BILLS

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to once again address the issue of the interstate movement of municipal solid waste. This is an issue that I have been working on for over five years, Mr. President. In 1994, I proposed legislation (S. 2126) that would have authorized localities to impose reasonable limits on imports of municipal solid waste from other states. That legislation did not pass, and even though most communities now negotiate compensation from landfills that imports waste, they negotiate with no real authority to power. In 1997, I re-introduced that bill (S. 448). In 1999 during the 106th Congress, and working with Senator WARNER, I introduced new language that I had hoped would spur discussion and perhaps some creative approaches to solving this problem.

I have tried, as have many other Members including Senators WARNER, BAUCUS, Coats, SPECTER, VOINOVICH, BAYH, CONRAD, SANTORUM, of course Senator CHAFEE, to come to grips with this issue in some reasonable way. We have all tried to come up with legislation that would provide states and localities with some method of refusing the detritus from other states when it becomes an imposition, or a hazard. The Environment and Public Works Committee did have a hearing last summer on this issue, but unfortunately no mark up was held after that hearing. All of our efforts, singly and in concert, have had little effect.

As of today Virginia remains the second largest importer of waste in the US, with the level of waste imported increasing from approximately 2.8 million tons in 1997 to 4.6 million tons in 1998. The figures for 1999 are not in yet but we can safely assume that they are higher still. On May 29th 1996, Mayor Giuliani and Governor George Pataki announced that in December of 2001 the Fresh Kills landfill will close. Fresh Kills remains the point of disposal for much of New York City's waste. Let me quote from a 1997 report prepared by the Congressional Research Service on this looming closure.

How the city will replace Fresh Kill's capacity is unclear. At present, there are few options other than an expanded recycling program and out-of-state disposal. A 1996 report for the city's Department of Sanitation concluded that, given current disposal sites, the city would consume virtually all of the available disposal capacity located within a 365-mile radius.

New York City and the state of New York have done virtually nothing since that time to increase in-state capacity. I would pose this question to each Senator. Envision the largest city in your state with a solid waste disposal problem of this magnitude, can you imagine your state government, and the mayor of that city simply ignoring the problem and failing to do anything about it? Admittedly, we have some tussles in Virginia, but when we have a problem, we try our level best to solve it ourselves, before we ask the rest of the Union to carry the weight.

This session it is critical that we get something done on this issue. Because when Fresh Kills closes we can expect a lot of additional waste to come our way. Each additional 1 million tons of waste that comes to Virginia will result in 40,000 additional tractor trailer trips on Virginia highways, if the trucks observe the legal weight limit. If they don't, we will have fewer, but more dangerous trucks.

Mr. President, a principle of public health protection embodied in the most basic practices of solid waste disposal is that waste should move as quickly as possible from point of origin to point of disposal. Moving waste over 300 miles through the most congested portion of this country makes no sense, but it will continue unless we move to stop it. Therefore, Mr. President, I urge that the Environment and Public Works committee move to mark up a bill that will help those of us in Virginia, and Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, and other unwary states to cope with, and put reasonable restrictions on waste coming into our states.

I have proposed an alternative option, but if that can't or won't be taken up by the Environment and Public Works Committee, I am ready to support any and all legislation aimed at empowering states to have some control over waste imports. To that end I ask that I be added as a co-sponsor to both the Specter and Voinovich bills. I will be willing to support any other legislation that serves my stated purpose.

In 104th Congress we came very close to passing an interstate waste bill. Senator SMITH of New Hampshire worked tirelessly on that bill, and was integral to its passage in the Senate. I hope as chairman, he will take up this issue once again, and move a bill through committee for consideration by the full Senate.

We were sent here to tackle complex issues and solve problems. We need to work together, and start now, so that an interstate waste bill will be one of the accomplishments of this year. ●

HONORING BROTHER RONALD GIANNONE

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a true champion of humanity. A man whose whole life has

been a gift of service without material reward. A man whose work has as much meaning for the poor and disenfranchised in Sudan as it does for the poor and disenfranchised in his Wilmington community. A man whose faith in the human spirit abounds. A man that I proudly call my friend, the Executive Director of Delaware's Ministry of Caring, Brother Ronald Giannone.

This week, business and community leaders and hundreds of Brother Ronald's closest friends from across the State of Delaware will gather to celebrate his fiftieth birthday. This Golden Birthday bash principally is to thank him fifty-times over for his countless years of service to our community. We will salute him because of who Brother Ronald is, what he represents and how much he means to improving the quality of life in my home State.

Let me be specific. Brother Ronald is the kind of guy who when asked by a man or a woman down on his or her luck, "Can you spare a dime?" responds with a meal, a place to stay and a rigorous routine of training and education to help keep that man or woman from the throes of homelessness and despair. He is hope to the hopeless, an oasis of strength and inspiration for all those who benefit from his generosity.

For these reasons, Brother Ronald is a true Delaware treasure, but still there is so much more. Brother Ronald is an exemplary administrator. There is, quite simply, no other organization like his Ministry of Caring. His 32 full-time facilities address every need of an individual or family who finds themselves homeless, destitute and/or in transition. He clothes, he shelters, he feeds, he takes care of children, he helps develop skills, he finds jobs, he provides medical care, he cares. He teaches those who need his assistance all the things they must do to be self-sufficient. And for those who seek to provide real change, he exemplifies just what it takes to make real differences in one life.

Still, it does not stop there. Brother Ronald understands that while he feeds someone in the Emmanuel Dining Room, someone else is starving in Sudan. Consequently, his work and Ministry extend far beyond American borders and into the lives of people throughout the world. Few people could have such grand vision and still focus so directly on those suffering in their own hometown. Such is the case with Brother Ronald.

Though I could say much more about this outstanding American, I will add only this. In the words of my hero, my dad, Joseph R. Biden, Sr., "it is a lucky man that wakes up each morning, puts his feet on the floor, goes to work and believes that it matters." Even luckier is the man that does these things, and inspires everyone around him to believe the same. Happy 50th Birthday, Brother Ronald. ●

BUNDESTAG/BUNDES RAT STAFF EXCHANGE

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, since 1983, the United States Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and convey Members' views on issues of mutual concern.

A staff delegation from the United States Congress will be selected to visit Germany April 7 to April 22 of this year. During the two week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag Members, Bundestag party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Cultural activities and a weekend visit in a Bundestag Member's district will complete the schedule.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for three weeks this summer. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Congressional Members.

The Congress-Bundestag Staff Exchange is highly regarded in Germany, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern in Germany and the United States such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, immigration, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag staff delegation when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two Bundestag staffers in their Member's district in July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Education and Culture Exchanges of the U.S. Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state why they believe they are qualified, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated. Applications may be sent to Connie Veillette