The number of small businesses owned and controlled by women is expanding at a very rapid rate. Today, small businesses owned by women total 30 percent of all businesses in the United States. Their numbers are expanding at such a pace it is anticipated that women-owned small businesses will make up over 50 percent of all businesses by 2010. Given where we came from, that is a gratifying and astounding statistic.

But for all the good news, women-owned small businesses still face some age-old obstacles in starting and running their businesses: work and family conflicts, a lack of access to capital, and complex regulatory and tax issues.

In addition, yesterday the Senate adopted a resolution I sponsored, S. Res. 311, that was adopted unanimously. I express my appreciation to my colleagues for adopting it. It called attention to the Federal Government's failure to meet the statutory goal to award 5 percent of Federal contract dollars to women-owned small businesses.

The members of the Small Business Committee who joined me in cosponsoring this resolution included my ranking member, Senator KERRY of Massachusetts, and also sponsoring it were Senators BURNS, SNOWE, LANDRIEU, LIEBERMAN, EDWARDS, as well as Senator ABRAHAM, who authored last year's initiative in the committee to help women reach the 5-percent goal. In addition, Senators BINGAMAN and MURRAY joined us as cosponsors of the resolution.

In 1994, Congress recognized the important role women-owned small businesses played in our economy. During the consideration of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, the Senate approved a provision directing that 5 percent of all Federal procurement dollars be awarded each year to women-owned small businesses. The goal includes 5 percent of prime contract dollars and 5 percent of subcontract dollars, and was included in the final conference report enacted into law.

The Federal Departments and Agencies have failed to meet that 5-percent goal enacted in 1994. After Senator ABRAHAM chaired a committee field hearing in Michigan on the state of women business owners, he offered an amendment addressing the failure of the Federal Departments and Agencies to meet the 5-percent goal during the Small Business Committee markup of the Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999.

That was adopted unanimously by the committee and enacted into law as Public Law 106–165, which directed that GAO undertake an audit of Federal procurement systems and their impact on women-owned small businesses.

The statistics for Federal procurement in fiscal year 1999 have just been released. Again, the 5-percent goal for women-owned small businesses was not met. It fell over 50 percent short of the goal, reaching only 2.4 percent. The administration's failure to reach that goal was the subject of the resolution, which resolved that the Senate strongly urge the President to adopt a policy in support of the 5-percent goal for women-owned small businesses, to encourage the heads of the Federal Departments to make a concentrated effort to meet the 5-percent goal before the end of fiscal year 2000. I understand the President has now issued an Executive order. But the second part of the resolution says the President should hold the heads of Federal Departments and Agencies accountable to ensure that the 5-percent goal is achieved during this year.

But these are just some of the issues confronting women-owned small businesses. I am very pleased to say I have been joined by Senator KERRY of Massachusetts, Senator SNOWE, Senator LANDRIEU, Senator FEINSTEIN, and Senator HUTCHISON of Texas to convene a National Women's Business Summit on June 4 and 5 of this year in Kansas City, MO. This summit will give women small business owners a chance to tell Congress and the next President what they need and what will work. Their agenda will serve as the women's small business agenda for the next Congress and the next President.

I might add that we have nationally known women and professional business leaders, as well as bipartisan government servants, who will be talking with the participants in the conference. I invite women who are engaged in and concerned about small business to participate. More information can be found about the summit on my Senate office web site at www.Senate.gov/bond or they can call us through the Capitol number: (202) 224–3121. We would be happy to provide them information.

I think it will be a very interesting and worthwhile endeavor in Kansas City. I am looking forward to participating. I know we will have many good ideas, based on the women participating in that conference, on how we can help the fastest growing and most important new sector of the economy—women-owned small businesses in the United States.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

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CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 2603, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2603) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, as chairman of the legislative branch subcommittee of appropriations, I would like to take a few minutes to describe S. 2603, the legislative branch appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2001.

The bill, as reported by the Appropriations Committee, provides for $1,721,077,000 in new budget authority exclusive of the House items. This is a $58,607,000 increase over fiscal year 2000. It is $146,770,000 below the President's request.

The subcommittee's allocation is 1.8 percent above last year's funding level, which is the $43 million increase.

We are being very frugal with the legislative branch. I think we are doing a responsible job of keeping the overall increase at a level that is defensible.

We are not allowing the legislative branch appropriations to grow faster than inflation. We are not allowing it to grow faster than the population. And the demands that are made upon the legislative branch we are keeping under 2 percent.

It was a challenge to draft a bill that stayed within this allocation because, as always happens, there was $20 million of new items that Congress committed to in previous years but which had not been funded. Therefore, they were not included in last year's base.

If we were going to talk about an increase over last year's base, but we had $20 million worth of obligations that were not included in that base, we realized that it created a tension and a pressure on the committee. But that is what we have to do when we are dealing with budgets. I have dealt with budgets in the business world and understand that this is not an unusual kind of challenge.

The mandatory increases that we have in the bill alone account for $54 million, exclusive of the House, on top of the situation which I have just described,

Senator FEINSTEIN, the ranking member, and I spent a great deal of time going over the accounts with our respective staffs and the increases that agencies have had over the last 4 years in an effort to find where we could best and most fairly cut without impacting employees. One of our goals was to see to it that no one was laid off as a result of the budgetary pressures on this year's bill. I am happy to say that we have met that goal in this bill.

There will be no reduction in force as a result of the Senate's action, if this bill is adopted, and no employees currently working in the legislative branch will lose their jobs. The subcommittee's goal was to ensure that would be the case.

There has been a great deal of discussion and concern in the press expressed over the House Appropriations Committee's first reported targets. Those targets were reported out of subcommittee with cuts of almost $105 million below the fiscal year 2000 level.

It is my understanding that the House now plans in their legislative process to increase this bill by $85 million before it comes up for floor consideration. I hope those reports are accurate and that the House does, indeed, move in that direction.

We do not want to criticize the actions of the other body in this body. We simply want to lay out what we think is the logical thing to do.

I hope those who have been focused on the press reports of what was proposed on the other side of the Capitol initially will recognize that there is a great deal of legislative action that has to take place between initial proposals and final passage. Certainly we are doing our best on the Senate side to make a contribution to see to it that final passage achieves the goal that I have outlined; that is, the goal that says there will be no reduction in force in the legislative branch.

S. 2603 includes an increase over last year's funding for every agency. That sounds better than it is for some agencies. The increase is truly only a token one—one-tenth of 1 percent increase. But, nonetheless, it is an increase to demonstrate, once again, that we are trying to treat everybody fairly, and that we are not trying to penalize one group in order to benefit another.

The area that has had the greatest amount of public interest and press reporting is the amount of money being made available for the Capitol Police.

The bill before the Senate will provide a 26-percent increase for the Capitol Police. If we are only going to have a one-tenth of 1 percent increase in some areas, that is where we will get the money to come up with the 26-percent increase for the Capitol Police. We do this because we believe security in the Capitol is a priority. We need to make sure the resources are available to the men and women who protect the Capitol, its visitors, the Members, and the staff.

We had a tragic demonstration that security needs to be addressed with the shooting of the two officers who protected the Capitol against the deranged individual who came in with a gun after some imaginary threat he, and only he, could see.

We had an example within the last week during a hearing in the House when a man threatened to kill himself with the jagged end of a broken bottle after approaching a Cabinet officer who was testifying at a hearing. He was subdued by a member of the Capitol Police and by a member of the security detail of one of the Cabinet officers involved.

These incidents, coming along with increased frequency, demonstrate we have a security challenge in the Capitol. We want to make sure the Capitol remains open to the American people. I would hate to reach the point of other capitals in the world. I don't mean to pick this country out because I recognize they have enormous security problems of their own and I think they are acting responsibly, but I will share my experience when I first went to the Knesset in Israel and the kind of security I had to go through as a U.S. Senator in order to get into the Knesset. There were barriers, more barriers, and checks and police points, all the way through so that the members of the Knesset could conduct their business in security and freedom.

In the United States, we run into our constituents, sometimes literally, virtually every day in the corridors of the Capitol. We enjoy that. The American people enjoy that. We want to continue doing that. I will be walking down the corridor on the way to a committee meeting and it is not at all unusual to have someone call out from the moving crowd, ''Hi, Senator BENNETT'' or ''Hey, there's Senator BENNETT.'' I stop and it is someone from Utah who is here with a school class, here with their family, here on a vacation, or here for a civics lesson experience.

Walking through the Capitol, it is something of a thrill for a constituent to see their own Senator on his way to work. If I thrill somebody, they get thrilled easily. Nonetheless, it is the kind of experience that the American people enjoy and historically have had in their Capitol Building. We want to make sure that continues.

The number of visitors each year is increasing more rapidly as the overall general population increases and as Americans get a little more money, a little more time, more leisure opportunities. I think it is wonderful they want to come to the seat of Government in the Capitol of the United States and see how it operates. As they come in these increased numbers, the tiny fringe of American citizens who represent a physical threat come also in increased numbers. Security is a priority. In this bill, we have made sure the resources will be available to provide that kind of security.

As we have reviewed the security issue, we have made provisions in this bill for a fairly significant change in the way security is provided on the Capitol complex. We have provided transferring the police who currently service the Government Printing Office and the police who currently service the Library of Congress into the Capitol Police. Rather than having three different police forces in a small physical area, we will have only one.

Since assuming the chairmanship of this subcommittee, I have been working towards this goal. I think we are now at the point where it makes sense to provide this unified force to provide seamless security. Until this time, the training for the police of the Library of Congress and the police at the Government Printing Office has been moving toward equity and par with the training given to the U.S. Capitol Police, so it will not be a big jump for these police officers to be in the same force.

It will be an opportunity for many of the police officers in the two forces that are currently outside of the Capitol Police to increase their career opportunities because the Capitol Police Force is seen as a higher level of pay and benefits and opportunity than the two smaller forces.

Additionally, it will mean we can bring the total security for the Capitol complex up to the level we want it at a faster pace because we need additional officers. Additional officers are not provided automatically by going out and hiring people. They have to go through a training period. By taking advantage of the pool of trained officers who are already there for the Government Printing Office police and the Library of Congress police, and perhaps bringing some of the new hires in at a level where the requirement is not as high as it is in the Capitol itself, we can increase the speed by which we can get to the level we seek.

Some legitimate concerns have been raised about how this will work. The General Accounting Office has been cooperating with the subcommittee for quite some time in examining how it will work, but in the bill we provide for the General Accounting Office to prepare a report for the Appropriations Committee addressing those issues that have most recently been raised, giving us an understanding of how they can be dealt with. This provision was included at the request of Senator FEINSTEIN who is particularly interested in the career path of the Capitol Police men and women themselves. I think it is a very wise addition. I thank the Senator for her initiative in its inclusion. It will ensure an orderly transition and protect the rights of the affected officers.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for her service as the ranking member on this subcommittee. She brings a particular flavor of experience to the subcommittee, having been an executive herself, as mayor of San Francisco. I have been an executive but not of an enterprise that big. Between the two of us, we have a good balance of the practical and administrative experience that is necessary as we deal with some of these administrative challenges. I thank the Senator for her service. I appreciate very much the support she has given.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of S. 2603, the legislative branch appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001.

This is my second year as ranking member of the legislative branch subcommittee. I have been very proud to serve alongside our dedicated and distinguished subcommittee chairman, Senator BENNETT. Senator BENNETT is

always very open and very willing to discuss the various issues that arise in relation to this bill. He has been very accommodating to my concerns as well as those of other Senators. I think he has displayed great knowledge of the various Departments and Agencies that fall under the legislative branch. It has been a real pleasure working with him.

Thanks to the allocation to our Legislative Branch Subcommittee by the distinguished chairman of the full committee, Senator STEVENS, and the ranking member, Senator BYRD, this appropriation is $145 million in budget authority greater than the House subcommittee's allocation, so the bill before us now restores the House cuts of 2,112 employees, including 438 Capitol Police officers.

Although we were not able to fully fund every agency's request, I believe the committee has distributed the scarce resources as fairly as possible, and we were able to make modest increases in most agency accounts above last year's level.

Overall spending is increased by 3.7 percent over last year's bill. In particular, I note that during markup of this year's bill, Chairman BENNETT agreed to include committee report language recommended by Senator MIKULSKI, having to do with the need for better employee relations in the office of the Architect of the Capitol. Senator MIKULSKI came to the subcommittee hearing and questioned the Architect of the Capitol directly concerning these matters. As a result of her efforts, the committee report language directs the Architect of the Capitol to establish a position of employee advocate, in an effort to improve morale and employee relations in the office of the Architect.

In his remarks, Chairman BENNETT has outlined for the Senate the various components of the bill, so I do not want to repeat that summary. I do, however, wish to point out to the Senate that for the Capitol Police, the subcommittee in that regard has included an appropriation of $109.6 million for fiscal year 2001. This is an increase of $22.8 million, or 26 percent over last year's enacted level of $86.8 million. This will fund 100 to 115 new Capitol Police officers.

The funding level, we believe, will enable the Capitol Police to implement the department's plan for posting two police officers at all key and critical entries and exits throughout the Capitol complex.

I take this opportunity to thank all Capitol Police officers for their really outstanding service to the Members, to this Capitol, and to the tens of thousands of visitors to the Capitol each year. They do a great job.

I know Senator MIKULSKI will be presenting a sense-of-the-Senate commendation to the Capitol Police, with which I strongly agree. I think it is important, because of what happened last year, to be able to really tell them how much we do appreciate their efforts. This can be a very thankless job, particularly when there are tens of thousands of visitors milling through the Capitol each and every week. So I think we both agree that they do a truly fine job and are, indeed, to be commended.

I also thank Chairman BENNETT for agreeing to include language in the committee report about which he spoke, which I requested, relating to the proposed merger of the police forces at the Government Printing Office and the Library of Congress with the Capitol Police Force. This study will enable a careful feasibility analysis to be carried out and completed prior to any consolidation. The GAO report, I believe, can be done by July 1, giving the conference the opportunity to review its findings at that time. I understand Chairman BENNETT's intentions in this area. He believes the proposed merger will result in greater efficiencies for the overall legislative branch police force. I believe it can be carried out in a way, as he just stated, that can maintain the upward mobility and career path for officers.

I share that hope, and I believe that prior to proceeding with such a merger, Congress should first have these views of the GAO to ensure that no unforeseen problems exist in relation to such a consolidation or merger. Chairman BENNETT has agreed to that study, and the committee report ensures that the study will be completed by July 1.

In closing, I express appreciation and recognition to the very capable staff who assisted Chairman BENNETT and myself with the legislative branch bill: Christine Ciccone, Chip Yost, Jim English, Edie Stanley, and Chris Kierig.

This is a very good bill. I urge my colleagues to give favorable consideration to its passage in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

AMENDMENT NO. 3166

(Purpose: Commending the United States Capitol Police)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for herself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. WELLSTONE, proposes an amendment numbered 3166.

At the appropriate place, insert:

SEC. ____. SENSE OF SENATE COMMENDING CAPITOL POLICE. (a) The Senate finds that—

(1) the United States Capitol is the people's house, and, as such, it has always been and will remain open to the public;

(2) millions of people visit the Capitol each year to observe and study the workings of the democratic process;

(3) the Capitol is the most recognizable symbol of liberty and democracy throughout the world and those who guard the Capitol guard our freedom;

(4) on July 24, 1998, Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson of the United States Capitol Police sacrificed their lives to protect the lives of hundreds of tourists, Members of Congress, and staff;

(5) the officers of the United States Capitol Police serve their country with commitment, heroism, and great patriotism;

(6) the employees of the United States working in the United States Capitol are essential to the safe and efficient operation of the Capitol building and the Congress;

(7) the operation of the Capitol and the legislative process are dependent on the professionalism and hard work of those who work here, including the United States Capitol Police, congressional staff, and the staff of the Congressional Research Office, the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Printing Office, and the Architect of the Capitol; and

(8) the House of Representatives should restore the cuts in funding for the United States Capitol Police, congressional staff, and congressional support organizations.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Capitol Police and all legislative employees are to be commended for their commitment, professionalism, and great patriotism; and

(2) the conferees on the legislative branch appropriations legislation should maintain the Senate position on funding for the United States Capitol Police and all legislative branch employees.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, that amendment is offered in behalf of myself, Senator DASCHLE, Senator MURRAY, Senator REID, Senator SARBANES, and Senator WELLSTONE.

The reason I wanted the amendment read is that I wanted to convey the importance that many of us feel in commending the employees who work here at the Capitol, both the police as well as other very important departments and divisions.

I first compliment Senator BENNETT and Senator FEINSTEIN for the outstanding job they have done on moving the legislative branch appropriations bill. This sense of the Senate is in no way a commentary on their leadership, which I think has been exemplary. I think their leadership has been sensitive to the needs of employees and sensitive to the needs of the taxpayers. So we thank you for the leadership you provided, first in terms of the adequacy of the resources to do the job and, second, stewardship over Federal funds.

Also, I particularly want to thank Senators FEINSTEIN and BENNETT for adding the report language on the need for an employee ombudsman for the employees of the Architect of the Capitol. I had come to their hearings, in which I was received with such collegiality that I am very grateful. But we wanted to problem-solve over what was happening to the restaurant employees who often believe they have nowhere to go with many of their problems. Essentially, my own office was becoming the EEO office for these employees.

I am ready to do that. I am ready to be the Senator from Maryland and I am ready to be the Senator for the restaurant employees. But I want the Architect of the Capitol and those who work for him to do their job so that our employees have the same type of ombudsman and opportunity for personnel

grievance that the private sector has. I thank them for that.

Let me come back to my amendment. My amendment is a sense of the Senate. It is not about money, but it is about morale. We want to say to the men and women who work at the U.S. Capitol that we know who they are and we value what they do.

These are the men and women who work in this building for the American people and serve the Nation. The Capitol Police protect this building which is a symbol of freedom and democracy the world over. They protect all the people who visit the Capitol, and they protect Members of Congress. It is the Capitol Police who ensure that everyone who comes to the U.S. Capitol is safe and secure. They are the most unique law enforcement officers in the country. They protect the building, and they protect the people, and they do it whether you are an American citizen or a foreign dignitary. They protect you whether you are a Member of Congress or a member of a Girl Scout troop.

That is who they are. They are brave, they are resourceful, they are gallant, whether it is protecting a dignitary such as Nelson Mandela or a Girl Scout troop from Maryland. They protect us from crooks, terrorists, people who are deranged, and anyone else who wants to harm us or the Capitol. Also, each is Officer Friendly welcoming people from all over America and all over the world.

The Capitol is a tourist attraction. Why? Do they come because we are so compelling, so charismatic, so gifted? No, they come to see democracy in action. We are the greatest deliberative body in the world. Sometimes we act great, and sometimes we deliberate, and sometimes we even do something together. But people come to see us in action. Those police officers ensure this facility is open to the people, preserving safety, often giving guidance and direction, many even learning foreign languages to do it.

Under their community police mentality, do not think, because they greet visitors like Officer Friendly, that they are soft. Talk to the Capitol Police. We know, No. 1, that they are tough, they are competent, they are a modern police force. They take bomb squad training, they take antiterrorist training, and they also work to make sure they have the right approach to deal with each and every situation they may encounter.

We need to make sure they have their jobs, they have their pay, they have their benefits, and they have our respect. That is what the sense of the Senate resolution is all about: to support the Capitol Police and the other employees of the legislative branch.

The House was going to cut over 1,700 people and as many as 400 police officers, which is 25 percent of the force. That is unacceptable. Then they were going to cut 117 staff from the Congressional Research Service. I will say what the Congressional Research Service is. It is a group of people who are absolutely dedicated to giving us unbiased, accurate information and unbiased, accurate analysis so we can do our jobs. If we want to make some very good decisions on the best models for the Older Americans Act or new technology breakthroughs, we should ensure adequate funding for the Congressional Research Service.

I will talk about the jobs being cut at GAO, the Government Accounting Office. The Government Accounting Office is not about keeping the books, it is about keeping the books straight.

My colleagues and I know we continually turn to the staff at the Government Accounting Office to do investigations of waste and abuse, to give us insights into how better to manage and be better stewards of the taxpayers' funds. People with those kinds of skills could leave us in a wink and be at a dot com in less than a nanosecond. If we are going to be on the broadband of the future, we need to make sure we have the people with the skills to run a contemporary Congress. And, we need to make sure that these people have security in their jobs and reliability of pay that they need to do just that.

I will now talk about our own congressional staff. They help us serve the Nation. We all know what the people who work for us do. They are the caseworkers who track down Social Security checks for our constituents; they help us answer our mail; and they help us draft legislation. It is the congressional staff who are now working, hopefully, to see that we pass a Medicare prescription drug benefit. It is the congressional staff who are now working around the clock so we can have a conference on the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Whether it's the Democratic side or the Republican side—the fact is that our staff is on our side so we can be on the people's side. We should not be cutting the very staff who help us get the job done.

We should not forget the restaurant workers, the custodial staff, and the facility managers who ensure the U.S. Capitol is a building that is comfortable, clean, and safe to visit.

We know about the draconian cuts in the House. Rumor has it they are going to restore some of those cuts. Good, because I would say to them, shame on them for what they were doing.

Do my colleagues know what the House intended to do? They intended to cut 400 Capitol Police officers, 114 employees from the Congressional Research Service, and 700 employees from GAO—1,700 people could have lost their jobs.

This is not about job security, this is about maintaining the safety, security, and cleanliness of the Capitol and the competency of staff so we can do our job.

I hope we adopt this amendment 100–0.

I close my remarks by saying that the reason I am offering this sense of the Senate amendment is so we know and show the people who work here every day that we are on their side. I believe Senators BENNETT and FEINSTEIN showed that by putting the money in the Federal checkbook, to show there is money which hopefully ensures a high level of morale.

I am also offering this sense of the Senate amendment because we need to keep our promises. A short time ago, we had two gallant police officers die in the line of duty—Officer Chestnut from Maryland and Detective Gibson from Virginia. We all attended their memorial services. We mourned them. We tried to console their families. We thanked them for their sacrifice, and we said that a grateful Congress will never forget. We should not forget Officer Chestnut, and we should not forget Detective Gibson. We should not forget the men and women who work here every day, in every way, in their own way dedicating their lives to serving us.

I hope we adopt this sense of the Senate amendment. Again, I thank Senators BENNETT and FEINSTEIN for their leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I commend my colleague from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI, for her leadership and for her fine statement on this important issue that is before the Senate today.

I am very proud to join my many colleagues who are here to commend the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police Force. Day in and day out, these fine officers risk their lives to protect all of us who work in the legislative branch. They also protect the millions of people who travel from across the country to the Capitol every year.

They deserve our respect and they deserve our thanks. They certainly do not deserve pink slips. Unfortunately, that is what the budget that was recently passed by the House Republicans would give them. In fact, in the budget that was passed by the House Appropriations Committee, if it were to take effect, 438 members of the Capitol Police Force would be relieved of duty. That is no way to thank some of the hardest working and most dedicated people I have ever encountered. At the same time that security experts are recommending to us we hire additional officers so we can station two officers at every entrance, the House majority's proposal goes in the opposite direction and requires us to fire officers.

Many people who are visiting the Nation's Capitol often turn to our Capitol Police Force for help in finding their representatives' offices or to get tour information. While our officers are always very gracious and helpful to everyone, the public really does not get a chance to see the many other things they do.

Every day, these officers interact with thousands of people, constantly

assessing potential threats and stopping problems before they ever have a chance to start.

In fact, in recent days, there have been two potential instances of violence in this Capitol complex. Thanks to the quick work of the Capitol Police, and others, those situations were quickly controlled and no one was injured.

In a world where the number of threats seem to be growing, in an age when you never know when someone will act violently, and in a time when the memories of the two officers who died protecting Members of this Congress are still fresh in our minds, we are all better off with a strong, professional, and well-trained Capitol Police.

I think it is fair to say that through their work they help all of us carry out the democratic process.

They do not just protect elected officials; they protect everyone who visits and works near the Capitol Building.

I have been very disappointed to hear what some of the House Republicans have said about the Capitol Police. I do not think those comments reflect accurately on the work of the Capitol Police. I certainly do not want the officers to think that those few Members reflect the way the rest of us feel about the work that you do.

I encourage my colleagues to do three things to honor these fine men and women.

First, I hope Members, as they go about their daily work, take a moment to say thank you to the men and women of the Capitol Police Force, and let them know how much you appreciate the fine work they do.

Secondly, don't let the House Republican budget slap these officers in the face. Instead, let's give them the tools and the resources they need to do their jobs effectively.

Finally, I hope all Members of the Senate will vote for the sense-of-the-Senate resolution and show that you stand with us in supporting our Capitol Police.

I join the Senator from Maryland in commending Senator BENNETT and Senator FEINSTEIN for doing an outstanding job. I hope we can adopt this resolution with a very strong vote so that we can maintain the numbers that they have worked to put into this budget.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I join my colleagues, and thank Senator MIKULSKI for offering this resolution. I join my friend from the State of Washington in urging that all Members—Republicans and Democrats alike—support it. But I commend Senator MIKULSKI for her initiation of this issue. And we express our appreciation to Senators BENNETT and FEINSTEIN for the action they have taken to express our full confidence and support for the police officers here at the Capitol.

How time flies, as we remember those memorial services for Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, who gave up their lives in order to try to save the lives of the Members of Congress. That is the kind of professionalism that is typical of this corps of men and women and that all of us too often take for granted. I strongly oppose any provision in the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill that would slash the Capitol Police budget. Any such reduction would show a flagrant disregard for the security of the Capitol. It is shocking that House Republicans voted for this cut, after a non-partisan study concluded that even the ''current Capitol Police Force staffing is insufficient to meet today's threat environment.'' Members on both sides of the aisle should be able to agree on this basic necessity of our time.

The budget must have room for adequate law enforcement. Police officers deserve a fair wage, equal to their risks and responsibilities. The way we treat Capitol Police officers is a measure of the respect we hold for them as professionals. No officers should have to jeopardize their lives to do their job because of inadequate resources and inadequate support.

The Capitol Police deserve enormous respect for their dedicated service. What these officers do as professionals affects the welfare and the very lives of every member of Congress, every staff person, and every visitor to the Capitol. They deserve our highest praise and gratitude for the skill and commitment they bring to their work.

The House Republican bill is a symptom of the larger problem facing communities across the country. Democrats have strongly supported the hiring of more local police officers and more school resource officers—giving communities and schools the tools they need to ensure the safety of citizens and students. Yet, Senate and House Republicans consistently fight us every step of the way.

Last week, the Senate Republican leadership attempted to block debate on sensible and long overdue gun control measures.

Last year, Republicans defeated an amendment to expand the Community Oriented Policing Program, which would have provided additional needed resources to communities across the United States in the ongoing battle against crime. And Republicans continue to target that successful program for elimination;

On the Juvenile Justice bill, Republicans blocked a Democratic effort to create a National Center for School Safety and Youth Violence;

On the same bill, Republicans rejected a Democratic amendment to encourage more effective after-school programs, so that one million additional children would be off the streets, out of trouble, and engaged in worthwhile school and community activities.

Republicans also defeated one Democratic amendment to expand the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative, to enable 150 additional communities to build partnerships between schools, parents and law enforcement to reduce truancy. The initiative would also provide mentoring for troubled youth, and teach students how to resolve conflict without resorting to violence.

Time and again, Democrats are placed in the position of fighting against Republican opposition in our effort to enact public safety measures that make sense—that keep families, schools and neighborhoods safe. Republicans would rather kowtow to the National Rifle Association and other special interest groups than listen to the American people.

We too infrequently recognize the professionalism and also the dedication of these officers. The least we can do is to treat these men and women fairly. And more importantly, what we can do—and we should do—is to commend them for their continued professionalism and for their devotion to duty.

I join my colleagues in expressing our appreciation to the two leaders on this appropriations bill, Senators BENNETT and FEINSTEIN, for what they have done in this area.

I will mention one other area, though, that finds fault with the actions of the leadership in the House of Representatives, in this term, the Republican leadership.

I find it difficult to understand what the Republican leadership has against low-income workers. Here we have the greatest prosperity in the history of this country, and the Republican leadership has been aligned to deny us a simple vote on a 50-cent increase in the minimum wage for 1 year, and a 50-cent increase in the next year. We have effectively been denied the opportunity to do so.

We have had to go through extraordinary gymnastics here on the floor. And then, finally, we end up with a 3-year bill, which is an insult to even the 10 million Americans who are working at the lowest levels of the economic ladder, and then tying on to that $100 billion in unpaid tax goodies for the wealthiest individuals and the most powerful corporations of this country. I think that is shameful action by this body.

But we have been battling, and we are going to continue to battle. We are going to remind our friends that even though they do not like voting on an increase in the minimum wage—and they use every effort to try to avoid that—they are going to be faced with the continued opportunities to do so until we get a fair adjustment in the minimum wage, which these working families are due.

But now we have not only opposition in terms of an increase in the minimum wage, but opposition to an adjustment in the cost of living for those individuals who are at the lowest level of service in the National Government. The House Republican leadership wants

to make sure that these employees are not going to get any cost of living increase, even though we have seen a generous cost-of-living increase for the Members. These workers are the ones who will get no increase—they are the press operators who work the presses, the bindery workers who bind the volumes of paper that we produce in this chamber, and the workers at the printing plant who haul paper and move the printed products. There is no increase for even these workers, the laborers in the printing office who publish the reports that go across to the libraries to inform the American people as to the actions of the Congress.

But it is not just the Government Printing Office employees who will suffer from this cutting of the cost of living adjustment. Mail clerks and laborers in the Library of Congress, Secretaries in the Congressional Budget Office, and Information Receptionists, Library Aides, and Reference Files Assistants at the Congressional Research Service—those who carry and sort the mail, who type and file our various reports and documents, and those who assist with the cataloguing and researching of all the reports and documents that we in Congress generate—all of these employees will be denied a fair cost of living increase by the House Republican leadership.

These are among the lowest of the low paid by the Federal Government. They are men and women who have a great sense of pride and dignity in the work they do. They are part of the team in terms of trying to serve this country. Nonetheless, the way we deal with them is to say: No, you are not going to be able to get the adjustment that others are going to be able to get in the Congress, and that those of the higher level pay scales are going to get in general.

That is basically unfair, and it is unwise and unjust. I do not know what the explanation is. Why is it? Why is it that we effectively make sure that those individuals who are working in the darkest areas of the building and are absolutely key elements do not get an increase? If you take those individuals out of this whole process, you are not going to get the printing of the records, which are reflective of the Government in action, and you are going to basically paralyze, in a very important respect, the representatives of Government having the information which is necessary to make sound judgment.

Maybe there is an explanation for it, but I do not see it. It is unfair and unjust. It is something where we have to say, if you have opposition to an increase in the minimum wage, you are hurting those workers. And who are those workers? They are primarily women because 60 percent of minimum-wage workers are women. This impacts children because fully one-third of the women who are earning the minimum wage have children under 18. It is a children's issue. It is a civil rights issue because a disproportionate percent of minimum-wage workers are men and women of color.

Most of all, it is a fairness issue that men and women who are going to work 40 hours a week, 52 weeks of the year, should not live in poverty in the richest country in the world, when we are having the most extraordinary economic prosperity in the history of this Nation. It just is wrong.

We are facing that blind opposition by the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States that says no to those working members of our economy. Who are they? They are the men and women who work in our nursing homes looking after parents who may be in nursing homes. They are the men and women who are working in our schools as assistant teachers. They are men and women who are looking after children when their parents are out there working and trying to put food on their table.

We are saying, no, they are not going to get an increase in the minimum wage. No, we are not going to give it to them. And no, we are not going to give a cost of living increase to other members who are at the lower level of the pay scale in our nation's Capitol.

That is an absolutely unfair, unjust, and unacceptable position. I am delighted that here in the Senate, in a bipartisan way, that position has been rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, first of all, let me thank both Senator BENNETT and Senator FEINSTEIN for their important work. I just want to echo the comments of my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY, in support of providing adequate funding to pay all the people who help us do our work in the Senate. I too support a wage increase for the many people who work here, who don't make near the money we make, don't have near the salary we have. I promise the Chair that if it were the House Democrats who had made these cuts, my condemnation would be just as strong. The action the House took, cutting funding for salaries was a mistake, and it wasn't fair. I think that on the Senate side, in a bipartisan way, we have done a good job.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI and all the other Senators here, including Senators DASCHLE, MURRAY, REID, SARBANES, and KENNEDY, for their support for full funding for the Capitol Police Department. I just want to read the last part of the Mikulski amendment, that I am proud to be an original cosponsor of:

> It is the sense of the Senate that the United States Capitol Police and all legislative employees are to be commended for their commitment, professionalism, and great patriotism; and the conferees on the legislative branch appropriations legislation should maintain the Senate position on funding for the United States Capitol Police and all legislative branch employees.

My hope is that all 100 Senators will come out here on the floor and speak in support of this amendment and in support of all the work that Capitol Police do to keep the Capitol safe. In a way, it is almost shocking that the Senator from Maryland feels the need to introduce this sense-of-the-Senate amendment. I think we ought to really think deeply as to why it is necessary to come out with an amendment that basically says that we value the Capitol Police and all the Senate employees.

I just want to make this appeal to all my colleagues that they come down to the floor and express their support for all the people who work in the Senate. I hope Republican Senators will come out here as well and speak. Maybe all of us can take 15 or 20 minutes. I think that sends a much more powerful message.

What I regret is that the House Republicans chose to cut the Capitol Police budget by 11 percent; that is a $10 million cut. Here is the problem. Forget the money. Anybody who watches us on the floor might say: What are they talking about, a sense-of-the-Senate amendment, an 11-percent cut, a $10 million cut; what does it mean?

This is what it means. First of all, we will never forget that we lost two officers, Officer Chestnut and Agent Gibson, in 1998. Many of us were at their service. It was so moving and so powerful. We made a commitment we would do everything possible to make sure that the police officers here—Capitol Police officers—would be working under the best of conditions, that they would be safe, that they could do their job and not be put in peril.

Their job is to protect all the people who visit the Capitol. I have given enough speeches to deafen the gods about this. I have probably spoken 15 times on the floor of the Senate in support of the Capitol police. Today, I get to come out here as an original cosponsor of this amendment and say I really believe it is critically important that the Capitol police be recognized for the worth of their work, the importance of their work, and also that we make sure we do everything humanly possible, as legislators, so that they work under the best conditions, which translates into making sure we do everything we know how to do to make sure we never again lose any police officers.

What the House Republicans did in their proposal would mean the elimination of some 400 police officers. That is no way to say thank you to the Capitol police—to have an 11-percent cut in their budget, to have a cut of hundreds of police officers, to have even less backup for officers; that is no way to say thank you to the Capitol Hill Police. It is certainly no way to honor Officer Chestnut, Officer Gibson, and their families—no way.

So I want to make crystal clear on the floor of the Senate that I believe that it is important that we all speak—not just Democrats, but Republicans as well—in support of this amendment to

send a message as Senators to the Capitol Hill police and their families that we have a tremendous amount of appreciation for the work they do, we value the work they do, we value them as friends, and we just simply want to say thank you and we intend to continue to support the Capitol Police. In addition, I believe that the work that Senator BENNETT and Senator FEINSTEIN have done matters more than any words I can utter here on the floor of the Senate.

The last point that this amendment is important, and the reason I hope Senators will speak on it, is to show our united support and respect for the men and women of the Capitol Police force, who protect us each and every day. In the days following the House actions to cut funding for the force, many of the police officers were just demoralized. How many people have said—as a matter of fact, we are losing Capitol Hill police members to the D.C. Police Force because they do feel they have the respect and support of the people they are here to protect.

But part of it is, I say to Senator REID, who was a Capitol Hill policeman—the only Member of the Senate who served on that police force—that part of the question of whether or not people continue to work here and feel good about their work is whether or not people think they are respected. You know, in light of what we have gone through for the past several years, when you then cut the budget and you potentially put some of these police officers in harm's way, you certainly are not communicating a message to these police that we value their work. You are communicating the opposite message. I think what the House Republican ''leadership'' did on this issue was one of the worst things that has been done here, at least since I have served starting in 1991.

I feel really good about what we have done on the Senate side. I feel really good that we have done it in a bipartisan way, and I feel good that I get a chance to support the Mikulski amendment. I want to, one more time, make the appeal to Republican Senators: Look, the truth of the matter is—and I don't want to get people angry at me—it is not as if we are doing a lot right now and we don't have time for people to come out and speak. I think we ought to get as many Senators as possible to speak on this resolution because it is important that we communicate a message of strong support for these police officers.

I thank my colleagues, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators BYRD, BENNETT, FEINSTEIN, KENNEDY, and DURBIN be added as cosponsors to this amendment.

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

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on this amendment be taken at the appropriate time as agreed upon by the leaders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I amend the Senator's unanimous-consent request that the vote on the pending amendment occur at 9:45 on Thursday with no amendments in order to the amendment, and that there be 10 minutes of remarks prior to the vote.

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

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the chairman of the subcommittee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, to make the record clear with respect to the statement that was made earlier about employees of the Government Printing Office not receiving an increase in this bill, Senator FEINSTEIN and I have provided funds so those employees will receive the mandatory increases.

It is a little bit confusing as to how the bookkeeping works. The dollar amount stays level, but because we researched the number of positions that had not been filled in previous years and we are funding those positions, we recognize the money that would go for those unfilled positions will be available for the mandatory increases for employees.

I want to make sure the record reflects that. We are not, in fact, forcing those employees to go without their standard mandatory increases in this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, could I ask my colleague for 5 seconds?

Mr. DURBIN. Yes.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I forgot to also thank Jim Ziglar, the Sergeant at Arms on the Senate side, who has done great work on this question.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the Senator from Maryland.

First, I thank Senator BENNETT of Utah and Senator FEINSTEIN of California, the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Legislative Branch. They have important responsibilities. They have met the responsibility and have done it very well in a very difficult time. I commend both of them for their hard work in preparing this important legislation.

I also commend my colleague from the State of Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI. Because of the proximity of Maryland to the District of Columbia, Senator MIKULSKI has said that she oftentimes feels that she is the Senator for so many people who work on Capitol Hill who come to her with their concerns. I know that is a burden for her to carry, but it is one that she carries with grace.

The offering today of this sense-of-the-Senate amendment is so typical of her dedication and loyalty to the men and women who serve us here in the Capitol.

This Capitol Building is one of the most recognizable buildings in the world. People literally come from across the United States and from around the world to see this magnificent dome.

You can never forget the first time you see it. I can still remember, I guess almost 38 years ago, when I first saw it in person. It made such an impact on me as a student. Little did I realize that I might someday serve in this building. But so many millions of people come to this site on this great hill to see this building, to walk through its Halls, and to witness the history that is here portrayed; to see the magnificent statues in Statutary Hall; to recall the history of this building; the Rotunda; the times that America has gathered in this place to pay homage to the greats who have served our Nation; to recall history when that same Rotunda was used as a hospital for Union soldiers who were injured in battle.

It is a great building and contains a great history. The dome on this building, which was built during the era when Abraham Lincoln of Springfield, IL, served as President during the Civil War, is really a beacon not just for our Nation but for the world.

All of the visitors who come here to be part of this great American historical moment expect the very best treatment, and they deserve it. That is why it is hard for me to understand what happened in the House of Representatives when the Republican leadership decided they would make a substantial cut—a one-third cut or more—in the number of police officers who would be in this building to protect all of us who work here and all of us who visit here.

It is hard to imagine how that could occur under ordinary circumstances; with the millions of people who flock to this building, that we would cut back in the security and protection of those visitors and employees. It is impossible to understand that suggestion in light of what occurred just 2 years ago in this same building—when, on a Friday afternoon, a deranged man came to this building with a gun and opened fire, sadly killing two of the very best Capitol Hill policemen, Officer Chestnut and Officer Gibson.

Those two men died in the line of duty protecting all of us—protecting

the visitors to this building, protecting the workers who come to this building each day, protecting many of the same Members of Congress who have sponsored on the House side this amendment to reduce the number of Capitol Hill policemen. It is an incredible thing that only 2 years later we would forget that basic lesson.

I remember going to the memorial service for the two officers, as so many Members of Congress did, to show our respect and our gratitude to their families—to try to express with our presence what we couldn't say in words; to thank them and their families for what they had given us. So many people were chocked up that day as they looked across at the rows of family members and saw not only the spouses but a lot of young children who would never know their fathers, who, frankly, would miss out on many of life's great moments with their fathers, because Officer Chestnut and Officer Gibson had given their lives to protect us.

Many of the same Members of Congress who stood choking back the tears that day are, 24 months later, offering amendments to reduce the number of Capitol Hill policemen.

How short is their memory? Can they not recall those moments? I certainly can. I know Senator MIKULSKI can.

As I come into this building each day and into the office building that we use, I see these men and women in uniform standing there doing their very best to make sure people know the right place to go and where the offices are located, but also keeping in mind that at any given moment they could have their lives on the line.

When Senator MIKULSKI introduces this resolution, when Senator WELLSTONE takes the floor repeatedly and talks about the security at the doorways of the entrances to the buildings on Capitol Hill, they are talking about a life and death issue for these men and women. They don't just come to work, as many of us do, and shuffle the papers and do our business. They put their lives on the line every day. The thought that the House Republicans would suggest cutting by one-third the number of police officers is incredible when you consider what is at stake here and what we lived through only 2 years ago.

I certainly commend my colleague, Senator MIKULSKI, for offering this amendment. I hope every Member of the Senate in a show of fidelity and support to the men and women who protect us every day will join as cosponsors. This should have a 100–0 vote because it really is an indication of what we feel about these people who mean so much to us and who go out of their way to be kind and helpful.

Some of my favorites—I hate to pick out a few because I know there are many who deserve recognition—Officer Charlie Coffer, who stands at the Russell door every day, is a joy in my life. There cannot be a nicer person on Capitol Hill in any spot. He brings a smile to my lips every time I walk through the door.

Officer Best works on the door on the Senate side. I came here at 10 o'clock one night with a group of visitors, and I asked if it would be possible to walk through Statuary Hall. He went out of his way to clear things and make sure we could bring those visitors through for the time of their lives, to be able to walk through this great building in the darkness of night, and sense the history of this building.

Officer Best, Officer Coffer, and so many others, go out of their way to do such a great job. If they go out of their way every day, we should go out of our way to show our gratitude and respect by passing this amendment and this important appropriations bill.

I close by referring to one other item which I hope this appropriations subcommittee can consider. It has come to our attention that some of the workers on the Senate side, particularly those associated with the restaurant, are technically part-time employees. When we are in session, they may work a full 40-hour week; of course, when we are out of session, they don't. Because of this part-time status, many of them do not qualify for basic employee protection life/health insurance. It is hard for me to imagine the men and women who serve food every day, who make sure this building runs smoothly, don't receive the most basic protections which we would expect for any member of our family.

I ask the committee, I ask Senator BENNETT and Senator FEINSTEIN, if they would be kind enough to look into this situation. I am happy to work with them and make certain we are treating all of the men and women who work here with respect in giving them the benefits which we would expect every American who comes to work every day to enjoy. I think we ought to join to try to set such an example.

If this is not a major problem, I apologize to the subcommittee. However, if it is one that I have been told is a concern to many of the employees, I hope we can work together to resolve it.

Once again, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their fine work on this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I have sought recognition at this time to commend the chairman of the subcommittee, Senator BENNETT, and the ranking member, Senator FEINSTEIN, for their efforts in bringing out of the Appropriations Committee and out of their subcommittee prior thereto, a bill which I know that all Senators can support.

As noted by the Chairman and Ranking Member, the allocation to the Legislative Branch Subcommittee here in the Senate was substantially larger than the amount allocated to the Subcommittee's House counterpart. That increased allocation was distributed fairly throughout the Legislative Branch.

In particular, as has been noted by Chairman BENNETT and Senator FEINSTEIN, the bill as reported by the Committee recommends a substantial increase for the Capitol Police. I commend these two very able Senators for their excellent work in recommending this increase for the Capitol Police and for the increases they recommended throughout the legislative branch. It should be kept in mind something that Members of this body often forget, perhaps at least temporarily, that the Legislative Branch is the people's branch.

I stand here on this floor time after time to say that again and again that this is the first of the three branches of our Government mentioned in the Constitution, article I. We should adequately fund the legislative branch. I believe this bill does so. We certainly bend over backwards time and time again to fund the executive branch, and the executive branch includes in its budget on every occasion that a budget that comes here, additional persons for various segments of the executive branch. In many instances, few questions are asked, if any. So the executive branch adds to its numbers by the hundreds, from time to time. Yet we respond quite niggardly with appropriations for the legislative branch. We are always pinching pennies when it comes to the legislative branch.

The Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, as reported by the House Appropriations Committee, contains major cuts throughout the legislative branch, including the appropriation for the Capitol Police. Rather than recommending an increase sufficient to continue the growth in the Capitol Police force that we approved two years ago as a result of the tragic shooting that took the lives of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, the bill, reported by the other body requires dramatic reductions in the Capitol Police force. Through a combination of the regular Fiscal Year 2000 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act and the additional funding that had already been provided in the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1999, sufficient resources have been provided for 1,511 Capitol Police personnel. That increase in personnel was carefully considered as part of an overall plan to improve security of the U.S. Capitol complex. It was to be a multi-year effort with these additional forces being brought on board as quickly as the new hires could be trained. Yet, that is not what has been recommended in the bill as reported in this year's bill by the House Appropriations Committee. That recommendation provides only $70 million, a cut of almost $39 million below the budget request, and provides for a level of only 1058 personnel, a reduction of 453 positions! Think about that. We all talk about how strongly we support reducing crime throughout the Nation. Let's

start right here in the Nation's Capitol, right now! We have put 100,000 cops on the beat across the Nation. A number of years ago, Senator GRAMM of Texas and I offered an amendment which was subsequently enacted to establish a Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund.

I was chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the Senate at that time. Since that time, tens of billions of dollars have been appropriated over the years from that trust fund. As a result, we have seen a marked improvement in the statistics on violent crime all across this Nation. When the tragic shooting of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson occurred in the Nation's Capitol in the summer of 1998, we all quickly rushed forward with promises of increased funding for the security measures for the Capitol complex.

I have seen this happen time and time and time again over the 48 years I have been virtually an inhabitant of this building. The distinguished Senator from Illinois said a moment ago he first came to this building 38 years ago. Mr. President, I came to this building my first time almost 70 years ago. I was a boy scout from the coal fields in southern West Virginia. Of course, it was never meant that I should ever become a Member of this body, not from the lowly beginnings from which I sprang. Upon that occasion when I sat up in the galleries, I said to the scoutmaster: I'm coming back here one day; I'm going to be a Member of this body. How little did I know that that might come true, really, when I came to this Capitol almost 70 years ago.

I was a Member of the other body when the shooting occurred in the gallery of that body. I was sitting on the opposite side, on the Democratic side, from where the shooting took place. The shooting occurred from the galleries just over the Republican side of the aisle. At first, I thought it was a demonstration of some kind, perhaps some firecrackers or some blank bullets.

I saw—I believe it was one of the Members named Jensen. I saw other Members fall. I saw one fall right in the center of the floor, towards the front of the House Chamber. I saw Members running to the Cloakroom.

A Member from Tennessee had sat in a chair to my left. If I were located in the House Chamber right now, he sat just over to my left. He was called to go out to the Cloakroom to take a telephone call. While he was out, that shooting occurred and a bullet pierced the very center of the chair in which he had sat. The bullet would have gone through his heart.

A Member of the House who sat just directly behind him was from Alabama, and that Member suffered a wound in his leg.

I remember going up to the galleries after they had taken the demonstrators out. There was a TV camera there. They asked me what I thought about it. I said, ''It just shows what a cockeyed old world this has come to be.''

The world hasn't improved any. As a matter of fact, it has gotten worse. I can remember some years ago when there was an explosion on the next floor below us in the Capitol. A bomb exploded right down here where the old barber shop was, where the Senators used to get haircuts. We were criticized so much because we got haircuts in the Capitol that we closed down the room, the barber shop. But in one of the little restrooms just outside the premises of that barber shop a bomb exploded.

Then, a few years later, a bomb exploded right here near the Senate Chamber, beyond the Republican Cloakroom, out in the corridor there. I was the Democratic leader at that time, and I had an office just a few feet away from where that bomb was deposited behind a bench where one of those Vice Presidential busts is now located. That blast occurred at 11 o'clock at night.

As Howard Baker stated the next morning, it could very well have killed a Republican Member or Members in that Republican Cloakroom that night. The explosion was directed toward the Republican Cloakroom. Nevertheless, that explosion blew off the huge doors to my office in S–208. It blew those doors over on the desks where members of my staff worked. As I say, fortunately, it was at 11 o'clock at night, but it just filled my offices with dust. It broke the picture window in that beautiful office.

I have been around this Capitol 48 years, and I know these things happen, and they will happen again. They will happen again. One of these days there may be a major catastrophe in this Capitol. And every time there is a rush to improve the security, and then after a few days or weeks or months, that subsides and the security lapses.

This is the most beautiful Capitol in the world, bar none, with Brumidi's paintings. Brumidi came to this country in 1855 and he died in 1880. He painted these beautiful frescoes in the Rotunda. I have my office now in his old studio down on the next floor. It is in this Capitol that Webster and Hayne had their famous debate. It was not in this Chamber but in the Old Chamber down the hall. Webster and Clay, and Calhoun—where the old Senate sat from 1810 to 1859; the Senators in 1859 moved to this Chamber. Ah, what history here—history, the history of the greatest Republic that was ever created—history fills these Halls. If you walk in these Halls at night, you can almost hear the words of Webster and Clay and Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. Yet, this Capitol is put in danger by reductions of this kind in appropriations.

Senator BENNETT and Senator FEINSTEIN have performed a great deed for the Nation, for the men and women of yesterday, for the citizens of today, and for our posterity—those who will walk these Halls in future years and gaze with wonder at the beauty of this Capitol.

A lot is expected of the men and the women who serve on the U.S. Capitol Police Force. We expect them to be highly professional, highly skilled, and highly motivated individuals who perform their duties well at all times. They must be courteous to the many thousands, the millions of people who visit this Nation's Capitol while at the same time being alert to the dangers that can arise at any time with little notice or without notice.

Members of the House and Senate, our staffs—Jim English, others on the staff of the Appropriations Committee who sit on this side, and staff people who sit across the aisle and aid Senator BENNETT; there are thousands of them who work in and around this Capitol—their lives are at stake, their lives and the lives of the tourists who come here from the mountains of West Virginia and the level plains of the Midwest, the prairies, from the Rocky Mountains and the sunny shores of California. They come here to see this Capitol and to marvel at it, to gaze in awe. How many times a day I see those tourists come in here and look about these halls; they just gaze in awe. They seem to be entirely unaware that somebody else is walking by. They are entranced by what they see in this Capitol.

These visitors deserve no less from our U.S. Capitol Police Force. But if we are to have the kind of police force that exhibits these qualities and these skills, we cannot subject these men and women to the specter of having their jobs eliminated in massive numbers on the heels of initiating a program to substantially increase their numbers.

It would be unwise in the extreme to cut security personnel at the Capitol complex, so I will join Chairman BENNETT and Senator FEINSTEIN and other members of our committee in defending the funding levels recommended in the Senate bill for the U.S. Capitol Police. I trust we will succeed in convincing our counterparts on the other side of the Capitol of the need for that increase.

I congratulate Senator MIKULSKI, too, on the resolution which she has offered, which she was kind enough to allow me to cosponsor. That is a good amendment and this is a good bill which, I believe, deserves the support of every Senator.

I again congratulate Senator BENNETT and Senator FEINSTEIN. I again thank them. The Senate is in their debt. The Congress is in their debt. The people of the country are in their debt because this is the people's Capitol. This is the people's branch.

These two Senators have done excellent work in bringing recommendations to the Senate. I salute them, thank them, commend them, and say: Long may the great God who is the Judge of us all and in Whose hands rests the destiny of the Nation continue to bless this great country and this great Capitol of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it seems just a day or two ago—the fact of the matter is, it was almost 40 years ago—that I served as a Capitol policeman. I can remember being out on the steps on the east front of the Capitol. I worked the night shift while I attended law school during the day. I remember one of my first duty stations was to be present during the concerts which took place every night.

I can remember a lot of things. One thing I remember is Senator Carl Hayden coming to the concerts every night. He had been in Congress more than 50 years at that time. He was still mentally alert but physically infirm. He would come in his wheelchair. As a Capitol policeman, I would stand near him during these concerts.

Quite frankly, Mr. President, the most dangerous thing I did as a Capitol policeman was to direct traffic. Directing traffic was a little dangerous in those days. I can remember that on Constitution Avenue, they had railroad tracks. And there were cars all over the place. It sounds a little facetious when I say it was the most dangerous thing I did, but it was true. I was barely old enough to carry a gun. One had to be 21. I carried a pistol. Thank goodness, I never took it out of the holster during the time I was a Capitol policeman.

I have very fond memories of being a Capitol policeman. Like Senator BYRD, I can remember coming from a town of 200 at the southern tip of the State of Nevada where we had a policeman by the name of Big John. Growing up in Searchlight, he was ''the law.'' But here in Washington, for me to walk in a uniform at night down these Halls—there was nobody in these Halls when I made my rounds—it brought a chill to my soul, thinking I was able to work in this Capitol and walk past the statues of the great men and women who made this country what it is.

For me now, to think I have served in the House of Representatives, the greatest democratic body in the history of the world—no one has ever served in the House unless they have been elected. In the Senate, there have been people who have served who had been appointed, but never in the House of Representatives. And then to serve in the Senate. I told one of my friends I was lucky. He said: ''You are not lucky, you are blessed.'' That is really true. I was wrong, and he was right.

I am blessed to serve in the Senate of the United States. I walk down these Halls many times a week to Senator BYRD's old office. As you know, the Democratic whip's office is down on the next floor. Senator, did you know that the fireplace was put in that office in 1824? When I walk down there, even with people around, I get that same chill I had as a young man in a police uniform. This is truly a wonderful building. I sometimes wonder why I am so fortunate to serve here. I am, and I accept those responsibilities along with the privilege.

I have never forgotten that I was a Capitol Police officer. I can remember when I was transferred to the House. In 1961, Henry Gonzalez from Texas, was a freshman Congressman. I can remember the very lonely duty I had over there. This freshman Congressman from Texas worked late at night, and he would say to me: ''Can I bring you something to eat? Can I bring you something to drink?''

Another Member I remember was Congressman Lindsay from New York, who later became the mayor of New York City. These are the two people I remember reaching out to a police officer, reaching out in kindness. It made me feel good about my job.

Like Senator WELLSTONE so eloquently stated, I have tried to be kind, thoughtful, and considerate to police officers. They have such an important job, and are often overlooked because things get so crazy around here.

The world is so different than it was 40 years ago. Unfortunately, there are people who are hellbent upon destroying this facility, not just damaging the Rayburn Building. I say to my friend from West Virginia, immediately before that bomb went off in the Rayburn Building, the Nevada State Society held a meeting there. We were the last group to meet in that room. I was a Member of the House at the time that explosion took place, and I remember the incident as if it happened yesterday.

Today, it seems that people are no longer content with blowing out a few windows. They want to destroy this facility, and, if given the opportunity, they could. That is why we have to reach out to the men and women who provide security for us on a daily basis. But, it's not just us, Mr. President. The Capitol Police provides security for all the staff we see throughout these buildings, the people without whom we would not be able to do our jobs. Most importantly, the Capitol Police is also charged with providing security for the millions of people who come to this beautiful Capitol complex each year.

We simply must ensure that we take care of the Capitol Police. The Capitol Police are very well trained. Today, as I was proceeding to a meeting in the Dirksen Building, I saw a man climb out of a car dressed in SWAT team apparel. I asked the officer with whom I was walking about him, and he told me that he was a member of the SWAT team. He was dressed like you would see in a movie. He is here because he is needed. We have demolition experts, people who are experts in defusing bombs. They are called upon to do that more often than we know. Again, they are here because, unfortunate as it may be, they are needed.

Often time, we only hear about the heroics of the Capitol Police when something goes wrong. We know when someone breaks a bottle and tries to attack other people because the press is there to capture the event-in-the-making. We know about the tragic deaths of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson because the press covered it in such detail. The many things we do not know about are the tragedies that are averted because of the skill and proficiency of the Capitol Police. Their training is as good as any police force in America.

When I served on the Capitol Police, all that training was not necessary. When people came to this building, we did not check to see what they had in their bags. We didn't have electronic machines for visitors to pass through. We did not check to see if they were staff. Our responsibilities were much different, much simpler.

Every day, these men and women put their lives on the line for America—not for me, not for the Presiding Officer, but for America, to protect this beautiful structure and the people who visit it.

Without belaboring the point, I have been fortunate to do a few things in my adult life. I am so privileged to represent the people of Nevada in this body. But this Senator is just as proud to have been a police officer, and I am proud of the fact I was a Capitol policeman.

I extend to my friend from Utah, the chairman of this subcommittee, and my friend from California, the ranking member, my appreciation for crafting this bill on a bipartisan basis. Not only have they reached out to protect the Capitol Police, which is so important, but they have also reached out to protect the rest of the staff.

I had the good fortune to serve as chairman of the legislative branch appropriations subcommittee when I first came to the Senate. I loved that job, because we did some very constructive things.

We see things in the other body on the other side of the Capitol that have not been very constructive. In fact, they have been destructive. I would say to my colleagues that the chairman and ranking member have brought about some dignity to the legislative branch of Government.

The other body, for example, drastically cut the Government Printing Office which does very important things for this country. In the State of Nevada, the Government Printing Office has 11 different institutions to which they supply periodicals and other materials.

Across the country, there are more than 1,300 institutions that serve as official depository libraries which disseminate more than 16.1 million official Government documents to the general public every year—every year, over 16 million documents the public gets from the Government Printing Office.

In Nevada, there are 11 such libraries, the 2 largest of which exist on the campuses of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and Reno.

The depository is a bargain when one considers the program as a whole.

While the GPO supplies the printed materials, the university, college, and other public libraries which participate in the Federal Depository Library Program supply the space to house the documents, the staff to assist the public, as well as the computers, the photocopiers, and other equipment needed to use this information. In other words, the GPO embodies the public's access to government.

What if we were to cut off that access? There would be—rightfully so—a public outcry that such access to government had been denied. If we were to cut back the staff the way the other body did, that is what we would have to do—limit the public's access to their government. The ranking member and the chairman have made every effort to stop this, and that is very important.

I also think that it is very important we recognize that the General Accounting Office—because of the work you have done—has been, in effect, spared. We complain because we do not get our reports and other information fast enough from the General Accounting Office. Why? Because in the past we have cut them back a significant amount. They are already working with a very lean staff. Thank goodness the ranking member and the chairman have taken care of this. This Senator appreciates that very much.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. REID. Yes.

Mr. BYRD. The Senator was talking about how the Capitol Police are careful to search our briefcases and to be on the alert for all people who walk through the doors.

A couple weeks ago, after I reached my house one evening, I got to looking for something, and I decided I left it on my desk in my office.

I said to my wife: I am going back up to the Capitol.

She said: Do you want me to go with you?

I said: Yes.

She and I are going to be married, by the way, this coming Monday, 63 years.

As I said, she said: Do you want me to go with you?

Anyhow, she came up here with me. I had already changed clothes. I had an old slouch rainhat on. I had some old wear-around-the-house trousers and some scuffy-looking shoes. I came up here with a slouch sweatshirt and had it outside my trousers.

I walked in down here and went through the magnetometer. I guess I am the only Senator who goes through the magnetometer. I don't know. But I do. I do that so the police and others who may get some complaints from some people who go through that magnetometer can say, Senator BYRD, who has been around this floor longer than any other Member of the House or Senate, who has been around here longer than any staff member on this Hill, goes through that.

So I went through that magnetometer. And there were two policemen standing there. They were not the regular attendants at the door. And they did not see any ID card on me with a chain around my neck. So one of them said to me: Sir, are you a staff member? And I laughed. I said: No, I'm not a staff member. I just want to compliment you on doing the kind of job you are supposed to do. No, I'm not a staff member.

So they were on the alert. They did what they were supposed to do. I salute them for it. I thank the Senator for yielding.

Mr. REID. Thank you very much, I say to Senator BYRD.

Let me say that I sat with awe as I listened to your presentation. It was very well done, as usual. There is no one in this institution who has the feeling for not only this building, not only this institution, the Senate, but for our country than you do. I have great, great respect for what you have done to inspire me to try to do a better job.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one of the things I say to my two colleagues, the chairman and the ranking member, is, if the other body is looking for additional sources of money, I think they should take a closer look at their franking practices. I am the last person to tell the other body what to do with franking, even though in the past, when I was chairman of the Appropriations Legislative Branch Subcommittee, we had some real battles dealing with franking. We cut our Senate franking practices tremendously. In fact, we now hear complaints that we do not have enough money to mail to our constituents. We have really tightened our belts, especially with mass mailings.

But, let's talk about the other body. In 1994, as part of a bipartisan effort that was initiated by Senator MACK and myself, our subcommittee successfully instituted sweeping reforms regarding franking privileges in the Senate. In fact, we cut overall mail costs by 50 percent between 1994 and 1995.

As part of the same initiative, the House, in 1995, combined its mail, staff, and office expense accounts, and instituted an expenditure limit on mail based upon an allowance fund.

However, Mr. President, that was changed. In 1999, according to the Congressional Research Service, the House, unfortunately, eliminated any expenditure limit on franking privileges.

So if the House is looking for some ways to get some money, they can always use some of the money they reapplied to franking just last year.

Also, I want to talk about the Congressional Research Service, for which I have the greatest respect. It is a great program, the Congressional Research Service. If we have a problem, we can have some research done. That is what it is. It helps our constituents, our staffs, and helps us Members of Congress.

These cutbacks that have been requested in the other body are simply not wise. I think it goes without saying that we need the Congressional Research Service so that we are not forced to rely upon a group of lobbyists.

I, again, commend the chairman and ranking member for their work to ensure that the Congressional Research Service is protected.

Finally, let me say, in closing, we have appropriated $100 million for the Visitors Center. I am not happy with the fact we are reaching out to the private sector to get money to help build what I think should be a totally Government institution.

A Visitors Center is long overdue. I hope we get it done quickly. I have been told, though I have heard this before, that construction is going to start soon.

I think it says a lot that we, in Washington, do not have a facility for visitors to come into this Capitol. That is one of the reasons why Officer Gibson and Detective Chestnut are dead, because we did not have a visitor entrance where people could be checked to see if they have weapons before coming into the Capitol.

Also, separate and apart from the security aspect of it, it is important that visitors have a place to come in during cold weather to stay warm until they can come into the Capitol, and a place during hot weather to stay cool, and a place where they can get a soft drink, a glass of water, or go to the bathroom. This is long overdue.

I hope this initiative will move forward expeditiously. I also hope this eyesore that we have out here with the painted lines on the road and all that other stuff will quickly be done away with. The east front of the Capitol should be just as beautiful as the rest of the Capitol complex. I hope we take care of that very quickly.

Mr. President, I reiterate my gratitude and recognition of the leadership of Senators BENNETT and FEINSTEIN. I wish them well not only in the passage of this bill, but also wishing them well in conference, where all eyes of the Senate, including our staff and the brave men and women of the Capitol police and other legislative branch agencies, will be upon them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I thank the Senators who have spoken in such generous terms. It helps to have a bill that is relatively noncontroversial and to be on the side of the issues where most Senators are to get those glowing terms, but nonetheless, I am grateful for them. I appreciate the comments.

AMENDMENT NOS. 3167 THROUGH 3170, EN BLOC

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I send to the desk a managers' package of four amendments and ask for their immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is laid aside. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT], for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN, proposes amendments en bloc numbered 3167 through 3170.

Mr. BENNETT. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendments be dispensed with.

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

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3167

At the appropriate place insert:

The first sentence under the subheading ''SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE'' under the heading ''CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE'' under title I of the bill is amended by inserting '', of which $2,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2003'' after ''$71,261,000''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3168

At the appropriate place insert:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. ____. (a) Section 201 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1993 (40 U.S.C. 216c note) is amended by striking ''$10,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$14,500,000''.

(b) Section 201 of such Act is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a)'' before ''Pursuant'', and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) The Architect of the Capitol is authorized to solicit, receive, accept, and hold amounts under section 307E(a)(2) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (40 U.S.C. 216c(a)(2)) in excess of the $14,500,000 authorized under subsection (a), but such amounts (and any interest thereon) shall not be expended by the Architect without approval in appropriation Acts as required under section 307E(b)(3) of such Act (40 U.S.C. 216c(b)(3)).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3169

At the end of title III, insert:

SEC. 312. CENTER FOR RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the legislative branch of the Government a center to be known as the ''Center for Russian Leadership Development'' (the ''Center'').

(2) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—The Center shall be subject to the supervision and direction of a Board of Trustees which shall be composed of 9 members as follows:

(A) 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1 of whom shall be designated by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives and 1 of whom shall be designated by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(B) 2 members appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, 1 of whom shall be designated by the Majority Leader of the Senate and 1 of whom shall be designated by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(C) The Librarian of Congress.

(D) 4 private individuals with interests in improving United States and Russian relations, designated by the Librarian of Congress.

Each member appointed under this paragraph shall serve for a term of 3 years. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and the individual so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the term. Members of the Board shall serve without pay, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(b) PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY OF THE CENTER.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center is to establish, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (2), a program to enable emerging political leaders of Russia at all levels of government to gain significant, firsthand exposure to the American free market economic system and the operation of American democratic institutions through visits to governments and communities at comparable levels in the United States.

(2) GRANT PROGRAM.—Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4), the Center shall establish a program under which the Center annually awards grants to government or community organizations in the United States that seek to establish programs under which those organizations will host Russian nationals who are emerging political leaders at any level of government.

(3) RESTRICTIONS.—

(A) DURATION.—The period of stay in the United States for any individual supported with grant funds under the program shall not exceed 30 days.

(B) LIMITATION.—The number of individuals supported with grant funds under the program shall not exceed 3,000 in any fiscal year.

(C) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds under the program shall be used to pay—

(i) the costs and expenses incurred by each program participant in traveling between Russia and the United States and in traveling within the United States;

(ii) the costs of providing lodging in the United States to each program participant, whether in public accommodations or in private homes; and

(iii) such additional administrative expenses incurred by organizations in carrying out the program as the Center may prescribe.

(4) APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each organization in the United States desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Center at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Center may reasonably require.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought;

(ii) include the number of program participants to be supported;

(iii) describe the qualifications of the individuals who will be participating in the program; and

(iv) provide such additional assurances as the Center determines to be essential to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the ''Russian Leadership Development Center Trust Fund'' (the ''Fund'') which shall consist of amounts which may be appropriated, credited, or transferred to it under this section.

(2) DONATIONS.—Any money or other property donated, bequeathed, or devised to the Center under the authority of this section shall be credited to the Fund.

(3) FUND MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 116 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2 U.S.C. 1105 (b), (c), and (d)), and the provisions of section 117(b) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1106(b)), shall apply to the Fund.

(B) EXPENDITURES.—The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to pay to the Center from amounts in the Fund such sums as the Board of Trustees of the Center determines are necessary and appropriate to enable the Center to carry out the provisions of this section.

(d) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Board shall appoint an Executive Director who shall be the chief executive officer of the Center and who shall carry out the functions of the Center subject to the supervision and direction of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Director of the Center shall be compensated at the annual rate specified by the Board, but in no event shall such rate exceed level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of section 119 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2 U.S.C. 1108) shall apply to the Center.

(2) SUPPORT PROVIDED BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—The Library of Congress may disburse funds appropriated to the Center, compute and disburse the basic pay for all personnel of the Center, provide administrative, legal, financial management, and other appropriate services to the Center, and collect from the Fund the full costs of providing services under this paragraph, as provided under an agreement for services ordered under sections 1535 and 1536 of title 31, United States Code.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(g) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Any amounts appropriated for use in the program established under section 3011 of the 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 106–31; 113 Stat 93) shall be transferred to the Fund and shall remain available without fiscal year limitation.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) TRANSFER.—Subsection (g) shall only apply to amounts which remain unexpended on and after the date the Board of Trustees of the Center certifies to the Librarian of Congress that grants are ready to be made under the program established under this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 3170

Section 309(1) of the bill is amended by striking ''fiscal year 2000'' and inserting ''fiscal years 1999 and 2000.''

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, these amendments have been cleared on both sides. The first one is an amendment for the Sergeant at Arms to make $2.5 million of funds appropriated available until September 2003. The second is an amendment to raise the cap on the amount of private funds that can be provided to the National Garden. The third is an amendment to create a fund to allow for private funds to endow the Russian Leadership Program of the Library of Congress. And the fourth amendment is a technical correction to section 309.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendments. Without objection, the amendments are agreed to.

The amendments (Nos. 3167 through 3170), en bloc, were agreed to.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I understand that the chairman of the full committee, Senator STEVENS, is anxious to come to the floor to make a statement. I will suggest the absence of a quorum to allow him to come, unless the Senator from California has something that she wishes to say at this time.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. That is fine.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to talk about a couple of issues. First of all, I commend the distinguished ranking member, Senator FEINSTEIN, and the chair of the appropriations subcommittee for their outstanding work on the legislative appropriations bill. Many of our colleagues have come to the floor already to speak as eloquently as I have heard about the importance of the Capitol Police, about the importance of those who serve us in so many capacities throughout the Capitol and throughout the Capitol complex itself.

I want to express my support for this bill and for the statement that it makes about the importance that we as Senators put on the work done by our Capitol Police each and every day. Those of us who are fortunate enough to be in Leadership especially recognize the unique role the Capitol Police play. They are with us almost from the time we leave the house to the time we are dropped off at the house late at night. They are with us publicly. They follow us. They protect us. They provide service to us in the most exemplary and professional manner. I think it would be all too easy for some to misinterpret the ill-advised actions taken thus far by the House in their legislative branch appropriations bill.

It was really for that reason many of us felt the need not only to support a good Senate legislative appropriations bill, but to underscore the numbers and the commitment made in the Senate version of this bill by cosponsoring and supporting the amendment offered by the distinguished Senator from Maryland.

We want to say just two words without equivocation to the Capitol Police, to the members of the Congressional Research Service, to the GAO, and to all of those who work so diligently and professionally each and every day: Thank you. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for how you do it. Thank you for setting the example. Thank you for the extraordinary dedication you demonstrate to public service.

That is really the message. I will be surprised if we don't see a 100–0 vote in our expression of gratitude and our desire to ensure that they realize how much we appreciate what they do. While we may not say it each and every day, and we may not walk up as we probably should from time to time to a Capitol Police officer, or to one of our floor staff, or to any of those who serve us, maybe in this small way we can say as a body, as Senators, regardless of political or philosophical persuasion, thank you. We express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for dedicating your lives to public service, and in some cases dedicating your lives to the safety of others, safety that oftentimes asks too much of police officers and their families, as we saw just 2 years ago.

So this is as an important a statement as I think we will make this year regarding our Capitol Police and our staff in many respects, and I am hopeful that it won't go unnoticed. I am hopeful that this will serve as a big exclamation point that we are very grateful, and that we are appreciative in ways that probably are not articulated on a regular basis.

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NOMINATION OF BRADLEY SMITH

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President I also want to address the matter concerning Bradley Smith. I know there will be time allocated for his nomination later on this afternoon. I will simply take time as if in morning business using the quorum call to address his nomination at this time.

As I have stated before, I have come to the conclusion that I must oppose this nomination. For me, this is not just a vote on a particular nominee with whom I don't agree, this vote is about whether or not we will prove the cynics in America wrong in demonstrating our commitment to strong campaign finance laws.

Yesterday morning in the Washington Post, a Republican strategist who advises Governor Bush and the Republican National Committee said the following:

> There are no rules any more . . . There were few if any to begin with but there are virtually none today. They know it, we know it, everybody knows it.

That wasn't Common Cause or Ralph Nader. That was an adviser to Texas Governor George W. Bush.

Governor Bush's adviser is right. In many ways, we have entered the post-Federal Election Campaign Act era. It is the Wild West of ''soft money,'' issue advocacy ads and secret donors.

The system is broken, and everybody knows it. A vote in favor of this nomination will simply confirm what we already know. It doesn't have to be this way. It shouldn't be this way.

I know very few Members of the House and the Senate, of either party, who like our current campaign finance system. I know very few members of either party who prefer raising money to meeting with constituents and working on issues. I know very few members of either party who enjoy the fact that, every time they face reelection, the amount of money that has to be raised to be competitive has risen exponentially. And frankly, I know very few members of either party who don't resent the fact that so many of our legislative activities are scrutinized solely in the context of donations—which groups backed which said of the argument, and whose money prevailed.

I am irritated by that. I am frustrated by that. That screen should not be the consideration. Even in the media, it shouldn't be the frame within which we view the debate on issues. But that is exactly how it is framed on the Sunday talk shows and in the newspapers.

If we think the current system is unacceptable, that is nothing compared to the way our constituents feel.

Our constituents don't like the current campaign finance system. They don't think it puts their interests first. But they also don't think we'll ever really change it.

In fact, they are convinced of it. Poll after poll showed the American people responding in single digits—not double digits, but single digits—to the question: Do you think Congress will ever change the campaign finance laws? Overwhelmingly, over 90 percent say no.

Today, it seems to me, the Senate can take the first step toward restoring at least a modicum of public trust in American political campaigns.

One thing we can do to promote greater confidence in our electoral system is to ask a simple question before we confirm the men and women who will serve on the Federal Election Commission. It seems to me that fundamental question ought to be: whether those who may be interested in serving believe in the laws on the books today? Do you believe you can objectively enforce the laws? We are asked that question every time we are sworn in. Will you uphold the Constitution? It seems to me upholding the Constitution and all the statutes and the compendium of laws that have been created as a result of our fundamental freedoms established in the Constitution is a prerequisite for serving in public office.

The men and women who, as Commissioners, would have the courage to issue clearer guidelines about what is permissible, and would have the courage to enforce those guidelines are the people whom we should encourage to serve on this and all bodies.

Brad Smith, it is clear to me, does not fit that description. Rather than decrying the weaknesses of our current campaign laws, Mr. Smith has made a career out of criticizing the utility of our federal election law scheme. He has argued for the repeal of the Federal Elections Campaign Act, and he denies that money has a corrupting influence on the political system.

Simply put, when it comes to campaign finance laws, Brad Smith is an anarchist. This is not the marshal who will save the day in Dodge City. Confirming Brad Smith is more like asking Billy the Kid to preserve peace.

Let's be clear. Putting reform-minded FEC Commissioners in place is not enough by itself. We created the FEC and our inaction has created some of