

Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. These improvements would certainly go far to legitimize the new Administration in the view of the international community but more importantly, in the eyes of the Croatian people. President Mesic's continued efforts on these fronts will show its people that their new government takes seriously the need for honesty and accountability.

As the government wins the support of its people, I am also encouraged by the efforts of the new Administration to get involved with the European community. In such a volatile region, a nation uniting the many groups will be the key to fostering a stable political and economic atmosphere. Part of the victory of democracy in Croatia has been the new spirit of regional harmony that I hope will spread to its neighbors. Peace in the Balkan nations will only come with honest attempts to live with difference, and Croatia will be a leader in the efforts for peace there.

In addition to better conditions in the Balkans, democracy will encourage the involvement of other foreign nations. Just two weeks ago, Croatian President Stipe Mesic met with French President Jacques Chirac to discuss an agreement on stabilization and association, as well as the Croatian entrance to the NATO Partnership for Peace program. The resolution I am supporting today suggests U.S. support for the addition of Croatia in the partnership, and I am happy to inform my colleagues that the nations of NATO have announced that Croatia will become a full member of the Partnership for Peace program today. This is truly a great accomplishment, and it affirms the commitment of all NATO allies to help Croatia in its chosen path.

In addition to my appreciation for the democratic and international progress of the Croatian people, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the work of the Croatian American Association in bringing this subject to my attention and to the attention of the American people. The Croatian American community has worked tirelessly to create bonds of friendship between our two nations, and I hope that as Croatia becomes more democratic and involved in worldwide political affairs that we, as Americans, will continue to support them.

Mr. President, I hope that this resolution will be an additional bond between two nations that democratic tenets have already joined.

ROLLING THUNDER'S 13TH ANNUAL RIDE FOR FREEDOM

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I want to recognize the 13th Annual Rolling Thunder "Ride for Freedom" and highlight the important role Rolling Thunder plays in making sure that our nation's POW/MIAs are honored and never forgotten.

The first time that Rolling Thunder's Ride for Freedom roared and rumbled

its way to the Vietnam Memorial on Memorial Day 1988, 2,400 motorcycles banded together for the ride. Some 5,000 Veterans, their wives, children, and other citizens of all backgrounds gathered near the Vietnam Memorial Wall to honor and remember our nation's POW/MIAs. Since then, Rolling Thunder has grown into an international event that garners national attention and focuses it on remembering our POW/MIAs. In fact, Rolling Thunder has become such a large presence that anyone who happens to be anywhere near our nation's Capital cannot help but notice it. For example, last year's Rolling Thunder run included over 250,000 motorcycles and 400,000 participants. There were people at last year's run from every state in the nation, and many foreign countries including Canada, England, Germany, France, Austria, Holland, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Made up of over 40 Chapters throughout the United States, Rolling Thunder is a volunteer, non-profit organization.

I would like to thank the several organizations whose support and efforts have helped make Rolling Thunder possible here in Washington D.C. for the past twelve years: the Virginia Police, Virginia State Police, Maryland Police, D.C. Metropolitan Police, Park Police, Park Services and the Pentagon.

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight some legislation I sponsored and Rolling Thunder supports. Rolling Thunder's input and support has been invaluable to the legislative process.

The first bill I want to mention is S. 484, the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 1999. This legislation would grant asylum in the United States to foreign nationals from key countries who personally deliver a living American POW/MIA from either the Vietnam War or the Korean War to the United States.

A key section of this bill would help spread news of the Bring Them Home Alive Act around the world. This is needed to help make sure that the key foreign nationals who need to hear about this act, hear about it. The bill calls on the International Broadcasting Bureau to use its assets, including WORLDNET Television and its Internet sites, to spread the news. The bill also calls on Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Radio Free Asia to participate.

If this bill leads to even one long-held POW/MIA being returned home to America alive this effort will be well worth it—10,000 times over. Even though it has been decades since these two wars ended, they have not ended for any Americans who may have been left behind and are still alive or their families and friends. As long as there remains even the slightest possibility that there may be surviving POWs in these regions, we owe it to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines to do everything possible to bring them home alive. This is the least we can do after all they have sacrificed.

Today, I am especially pleased to announce that S. 484 passed the Senate last Wednesday, May 24th. Now we need to get it passed in the House of Representatives and enacted into law.

Rolling Thunder was also helpful in getting another important bill enacted into law, the National POW-MIA Recognition Act, legislation I sponsored in the 105th Congress.

This law requires that the POW-MIA flag be displayed on important national buildings—all across America—on six important days. These days include: Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day and National POW-MIA Recognition Day.

Rolling Thunder captures the American people's attention—and those elected to represent them—and then brightly focuses our attention on remembrance of, and continuing duty to, our nation's POWs and MIAs.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

H.R. 4489 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE DATA MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 4489, the "Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000." Passage of this legislation will repeal Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 and prevent it from ever being implemented.

Section 110 of the 1996 Immigration law was intended to track individuals who overstay their legally permissible visit in the U.S. However, to accomplish that well-intentioned goal, this law required all foreign travelers or U.S. permanent residents to be individually recorded at ports of entry. In practical effect, the provisions would bring traffic to a halt on the Canadian border for miles.

Those of us who represent states along the Canadian border are well-aware of the close bonds between the U.S. and Canada. The U.S.-Canadian border is the longest continuous open border in the free world and Canadians come into our country freely and easily under current U.S. policy. In Maine, our ties with Canada are particularly deep because many Mainer's extended families live across the border in Canada. Our current border-crossing policy allows these family members to quickly and easily cross the border every day in order to be with a husband, wife, a brother, a sister, cousin or even in-laws as the case may be.

Canada is not only our friend and ally, but our largest trading partner—it is important to maintain and foster our relationship with our neighbor to the North by promoting U.S.-Canadian friendship and trade. The ill-thought out provisions passed as part of the 1996 immigration law would grossly delay

all those crossing the Northern border from Canada, and injure the Northern economy as critical trade and travel routes are slowed. In my State of Maine, this new border policy would have the most immediate impact on border communities such as Calais, Houlton, Madawaska, Fort Kent, and Jackman. Businesses in these communities rely on Canadians to cross the border each and every day in order to buy their goods and services. In addition, the impact on critical Maine trade, including lumber and tourism, would extend beyond these communities and reverberate across my State.

The bill we consider today, H.R. 4489, the Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000, repeals Section 110 of the Immigration law. In its place, the bill directs the Immigration and Naturalization Service to amass data already collected at entrance and departure points in an electronically searchable manner. The legislation explicitly states no new documentary requirements or data collection can be directed as a result of the passage of this bill, ensuring that INS new database will rely on already available data.

Those of us who represent the northern regions of our country have been working for over four years now to repeal Section 110. With the support of Senate colleagues, the deadline for implementation of the entry/exit control system for land and sea points of entry has been postponed until March 31, 2001. But until now, we have been unable to break the impasse that left Section 110 in place. I salute all the efforts which have yielded this ground breaking agreement today, particularly the hard work of Senator ABRAHAM who has worked tirelessly on this issue. I look forward to passage of H.R. 4489, and a final end to the threat to the economy posed by Section 110 of the 1996 Immigration law.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

DASCHLE AMENDMENT NO. 3148

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on May 16, 2000, the United States Senate took a procedural vote on Senator DASCHLE's amendment to S. 2521, the Military Construction Appropriations Bill. Senator DASCHLE lost this procedural vote by a vote of 42-54.

I did not support the Daschle amendment at that time because it was a procedural amendment to an unrelated bill. This unrelated Daschle amendment kept the Senate away all day from the important business of the Military Construction Appropriations Bill. In addition, it appeared that the Daschle amendment might indefinitely delay consideration of this important bill. As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have a responsibility to secure passage of the important Military Construction Appropriations Bill. This bill provides critically needed funding for military construc-

tion projects, improves the quality of life for the men and women who are serving our country in the armed forces, and sustains the readiness of our armed forces. These areas are traditionally underfunded, and this bill provides the necessary funds to help make up for this shortfall. For these reasons, I did not support the Daschle amendment when it came before me on a procedural vote on May 16, 2000.

Subsequent to the procedural vote on the Daschle amendment on May 16, 2000, Senators LOTT and DASCHLE reached an agreement to have two up or down votes—one on the aforementioned Daschle amendment and another on an amendment to be offered by Senator LOTT. Under the agreement, debate on the amendments was limited by a time agreement.

Once this leadership agreement was reached, it became apparent that the Daschle amendment would no longer indefinitely delay the Military Construction Appropriations Bill. Therefore, my previous objections to this amendment were no longer relevant.

The Daschle amendment is a "Sense of the Senate" amendment. After stating a number of findings, the amendment states, among other things, that it is the Sense of the Senate that "Congress should immediately pass a conference report to accompany" the Juvenile Justice Bill that includes the Senate passed gun-related provisions.

During the Senate's debate of the Juvenile Justice Bill in May of 1999, I supported the Lautenberg amendment, and other amendments to close the gun show loophole in the Brady Act. I also supported an amendment to require licensed firearm dealers to provide a secure gun storage or safety device when a handgun is sold, delivered or transferred. Unfortunately, the Juvenile Justice Bill has been locked in a House and Senate Conference Committee.

I remain firm in my stance on these issues. I certainly hope that House and Senate conferees can reach an agreement in conference on the Juvenile Justice Bill. And, I will continue to support the common-sense gun provisions that passed the Senate during the Juvenile Justice debate. I believe the Senate passed gun-related amendments to the Juvenile Justice Bill will help keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons and increase public safety without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens. Therefore, when it became clear that the Daschle amendment would not indefinitely delay consideration of the Military Construction Appropriations Bill, I supported this amendment and voted for it on May 17, 2000.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SENATOR LANDRIEU WELCOMES HIS EXCELLENCY, MUGUR ISARESCU

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to

extend a warm welcome to His Excellency, Mugur Isarescu, the Prime Minister of Romania. Prime Minister Isarescu's visit is very well-timed. United States' policy in the Balkans is at a decisive point. We took an extremely important vote in the Senate last week that served as a litmus test for our commitment to the region. I am relieved at the results. Ultimately, the United States did not send the wrong signal to Serbia about our intentions. However, the amendment by the Senior Senators from Virginia and West Virginia, gave the Senate the opportunity to reevaluate our role in the Balkans. The debate of that amendment highlighted the need to establish a more coherent rationale for our leadership in the region.

Mr. President, that is why the Prime Minister's visit is so opportune. The United States has rarely had an ally that has suffered so much for the reward of serving a just cause. However, that is precisely what Romania has done. Romania enjoys good relations with all of its neighbors, but the historical links with Yugoslavia were particularly strong. Yugoslavia, under Tito, was a role-model for how Romania could find a middle path between the superpowers and allow western influence without provoking the Soviets. As you might expect, they shared strong commercial and economic ties. Furthermore, the Danube, the critical life-line for intra-European trade, runs through both countries.

Because of Romania's stalwart support of the NATO mission in Kosovo, we have compelled them to forgo these ties. It has come at great economic cost, and I believe that is incumbent upon the United States, and all of NATO to recognize this sacrifice. However, beyond calling attention to the steadfastness of Romania and other Partnership for Peace nations in our Kosovo mission, the Prime Minister's visit also represents a true opportunity. Romania has had to cope with instability and shifting power-struggles throughout its history. We are fortunate to have an ally who can provide wise counsel as we navigate our way through this region. Furthermore, Romania's help comes from a faultless motivation. Romania would like to be embraced by the institutions of the West. They earnestly desire to participate in NATO and the European Union. Rather than play a game of horse-trading, Romania has tried living up to the ideals of NATO membership before entering the alliance.

Mr. President, I would again like to welcome the Prime Minister, thank the Romanian people for their sacrifice in the Kosovo conflict, and wish the Romanian government well as it seeks to further the excellent working-relationship that we have established since the end of Communism.●