staff or resources to carry out more than one project at a time.

While FEMA agreed that communities should spend their grants in a more timely manner, FEMA was concerned about taking steps that would undermine the planning process at local levels by placing more focus on expenditures, or infringe upon local budget cycles and negate community efforts to obtain additional funding. In response to these concerns, FEMA now requires communities to align Project Impact funding with local projects initiated within 18 months of funding. The Inspector General concurred with FEMA's action.

To deal with management issues, the Inspector General recommended that FEMA provide technical assistance to new communities on federal grant management. In response, FEMA has expanded opportunities for technical assistance through availability of regional staff, the Project Impact ''How-To-Get-Started'' course, and FEMA's Web site. The Inspector General also recommended improved accounting and reporting by the communities and FEMA to keep records current and accessible. FEMA agreed, implemented new procedures, and the Inspector General was satisfied with their response. Here is a successful example of the Federal Government returning money and power to local governments.

The IG report recognizes the significant amount of effort already performed by communities and the active involvement with communities that FEMA spends before mitigation projects are accepted and approved. It also recognizes that attitudinal and behavioral changes are occurring in communities through collaboration and increasing public awareness and education about disaster mitigation efforts. It states that while the benefits derived from such efforts can not be quantified, they are very important to a community that hopes to sustain disaster preparedness measures, long after the initial seed money is gone.

Perhaps these very important, but inherently unquantifiable activities are what the President's spokesman is referring to when he suggests programs such as ''scout camps, training Boy Scouts in Delaware, sponsoring a safety fair and those kinds of things'' were not worthwhile and demonstrated that the program was ineffective?

Which scout activities should not have been sponsored? The community service project in Pascagoula, MI in which local Boy Scouts were instrumental in developing a database of all commercial and residential structures in the 100-year floodplain? Or the Boy Scouts in Eden, NY who helped clean up debris in creeks that are prone to flooding as part of the community flood mitigation plan? Or the Ouachita Parish, LA Girl Scouts who sponsored a disaster safety fair. Perhaps the Boy Scouts in Culebra, PR, who performed an intensive door-to-door mitigation-oriented public awareness campaign, did not deserve training?

The last recommendation in the report was for FEMA to realign resources to better manage the growing number of Project Impact communities. FEMA responded by creating a new position in each region to augment Project Impact staffing needs to deal with the growing number of Project Impact communities and business partners due to the program's popularity and success.

Project Impact is not perfect. Certainly there are areas that could be improved and ways in which it could be made more efficient. FEMA's Inspector General identified several such areas. Through communication and cooperation, FEMA is addressing these issues. In no part of the report does the Inspector General suggest that the program be canceled. On the contrary, many of its recommendations are to help FEMA deal with how the program is growing so that it can continue its successes and improve upon its accomplishments.

The 50th State is vulnerable to a host of natural disasters, and Hawaii's state and local officials know that disaster mitigation is the best way to lessen the impact of catastrophic damage and loss of life. I was interested that when asked about the proposed elimination of Project Impact, the Honorable Harry Kim, mayor of the County of Hawaii and formerly the county's director of civil defense for 24 years, said, ''If it were not for mitigation efforts, we would never stay ahead of the game. I hope those in authority will talk to local officials because I would be surprised if anyone would support eliminating Project Impact. The growing pains of any project should not be the cause of cancellation.'' I agree with Mayor Kim. I urge the President to take another look at Project Impact, which is the only federal program that requires heavy community involvement to meet FEMA's goal of reducing the loss of life and property by protecting the nation from all types of hazards.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA BICENTENNIAL

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the Year 2001 marks Arlington County's 200th anniversary as a separate and distinct county.

On March 4, 1801, the District of Columbia was organized on land Virginia and Maryland had ceded to provide territory for the new capital. Virginia ceded part of what was then Fairfax County as its contribution to the new Federal City. This area was named Alexandria County and at the time included the Town of Alexandria as well as what is now Arlington County. Alexandria County was later returned to Virginia by the Federal government. In 1870, the Town of Alexandria became an independent city, separating from Alexandria County. In 1920, in order to avoid confusion between the county and the city of Alexandria, the name of the county was changed to Arlington, after the Curtis-Lee Mansion located in the county.

Arlington's past laid a solid foundation for the community many of us know today, a place rich in historic value, cultural diversity and economic vitality. The Arlington County Bicentennial Task Force has been formed to coordinate commemorative activities throughout 2001. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this wonderful community located just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.•

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. CLAUDE SHANNON

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today in memory of Dr. Claude Shannon, a pioneer in the field of modern communications technology. His work provided a major part of the theoretical foundation leading to applications as diverse as digital cell phones, deep space communications and the compact disc.

Dr. Shannon died on February 24 after suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He was not widely known by the general public, but he should have been. His work predated the establishment of the World Wide Web, but in 1948 he published a seminal paper entitled ''A Mathematical Theory of Communication.'' This paper was the first to provide a mathematical model of the communication process. He was able to define ''information'' in a way that was unrelated to its semantic meaning by explaining the power of encoding information in a simple language of 1's and 0's. Communication then became the process of transferring information from a ''source'', modified by an ''encoder'', through a ''channel'', to a ''decoder'' at the output of a channel. This theory underlies the modern communications revolution.

Dr. Shannon's work showed that every kind of information source—text, images, video, data—has associated with it a quantifiable information content that mandates how efficiently it can be represented, the basis for ''data compression.'' For instance, he showed that, no matter how clever you are, you can't represent English text with less than about 1.5 bits per letter. Dr. Shannon also established fundamental limits to how efficiently one can transmit information over imperfect communication channels; his work on reliable transmission formed the theoretical basis for the modems, satellite links and computer memories that are pervasive today. These aspects of Shannon's work became the foundation of what we now call ''Information Theory.''

As important as Dr. Shannon's 1948 masterwork was, it was not his sole contribution to the emerging information age. As a graduate student at MIT, Shannon made a profound and fundamental contribution to the field of