

FSU scientists. These grants have leveraged 300 percent of U.S. Government funds through in cash and in-kind contributions from U.S. industry.

I would also note that more than 95 percent of the collaborations formed in CRDF awards will continue, whether with CRDF support or not. Over 100 U.S.-FSU teams are seeking commercial applications for the products of their collaborative research. Twenty-two teams have filed for patents, fourteen of which are joint.

For over a year now CRDF has ensured financial integrity for Department of Energy projects under the Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention, IPP, program. The United States Industry Coalition, USIC, the industry-arm of the IPP program, now boasts 96 members throughout the U.S. and several substantial commercial successes with FSU partners. Through its cooperation with CRDF, USIC and the IPP program now can ensure that funding for FSU scientists involved in these research efforts avoids taxation by Russian or other officials. This aspect is critical for maximizing the impact of U.S. Government or industry investments to provide stable employment and a steady income to FSU scientists.

Since 1994, the IPP program has engaged over 6,200 former weapons of mass destruction scientists. Importantly, USIC members usually surpass cost-sharing arrangements with DOE expenditures totaling \$39.3 million versus the \$63.4 million invested by U.S. industry. Currently, 75 of USIC's members are engaged in 120 cost-shared projects.

I would like to briefly highlight a recent success story in my home state of New Mexico. On January 15, I participated in a technology demonstration and press conference to announce a \$20 million international investment in technologies jointly developed by a small U.S. engineering company, a Russian nuclear weapons plant, and two of the Department of Energy's facilities.

An entrepreneurial American company, Stolar Horizon of Raton, NM, a long-standing member of USIC, identified a Russian technology with market potential, then staked over \$5 Million of its own money to develop it. Stolar Horizon worked in tandem with Sandia National Laboratories and the Kansas City Plant through the IPP program to test and refine the technology for commercial, peaceful applications.

The result: Credit Suisse First Boston has committed \$20 million in financing to take the product to the global market. An estimated 350 new jobs will be created in New Mexico, and over 600 jobs await Russian nuclear scientists and technicians in Nizhny Novgorod at the Institute for Measuring Systems Research, NIIS, are planned.

I would remind everyone that U.S. appropriations in FY2001 for the IPP program is only \$24.5 million. In this one example, Credit Suisse will provide

an investment equal to 80 percent of our own in this fiscal year.

The Stolar Horizon/NIIS success is a concrete example of the original IPP vision: making the world a safer place through cooperative commercial efforts leading to long-term, well-paying jobs in both nations.

The cooperative efforts of USIC members, DOE-IPP, other U.S. government agencies, and the scientific institutes of the NIS are revolutionizing the post-Cold War world, creating new opportunities for weapons scientists and engineers, and making our world more safe and secure.

I return to the thoughts of Charles Beard. In pursuit of its interests, Government might make use of citizens' interests to advance the national interest. This is the foremost objective of nonproliferation programs that seek to create commercial opportunities in the FSU.

The statistics and examples I've offered above underscore the successes we've achieved. Obviously, our attempts have frequently stumbled sometimes as a result of our own false starts and other times due to circumstances beyond our control. However, at the same time, we have never faced a situation similar to the collapse of the Soviet Union. We had never before legislated or formulated programs with the express intent of preventing proliferation through promotion of commercial opportunities. We had never confronted providing economic development aid to countries burdened by legacies of a command economy. From this perspective, we've made remarkable progress.

Mr. President, I would conclude on the following note: each concrete successful commercial venture will have exponential benefits. I am convinced that these ventures will pay off—by mitigating immediate potential proliferation threats, contributing to a stable economy in the region, and advancing U.S. citizens' own monetary interests.

#### CONGRATULATING FIRST BOOK

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last Friday, Congressman MIKE CAPUANO and I had the honor of congratulating First Book for distributing over a quarter of a million books to children across Massachusetts. My distinguished colleague from Massachusetts is a tireless advocate for ensuring that children of all ages obtain the reading materials and skills they need to become active members of our State and of our Nation, and I am happy to have been able to share this important afternoon with him.

Thanks to the coordination of First Book, the generous donations by Random House Children's Books and Little, Brown & Company, and the dedicated volunteers from the Campus Outreach Opportunity League, the Coast Guard and First Book, thousands of children throughout our state who do not always get the opportunity to re-

ceive brand new books, are now enjoying their gifts.

First Book is making it possible for young children to have access to books and take the first steps toward learning to read and it is making a real difference in their lives. It is impressive that last year, First Book was responsible for distributing more than 4 million books to children in more than 290 communities across the country.

A 1999 evaluation of First Book conducted by Lou Harris and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, showed that after a child's involvement in First Book, 55 percent of them reported an increased interest in reading. Ninety-eight percent of the local advisory boards reported that their community was better off because of the support of First Book.

Children need to have reading materials outside of school, and even before they start school. It is the best way to develop a love of reading early in life.

When President Kennedy was young, two of his favorite books were "Billy Whiskers" and "King Arthur and the Round Table." My mother read for endless hours to all nine of us, and she was conscientious about choosing books that were educational and inspirational as well as entertaining. She instilled a love of reading in all of us.

Reading is the foundation of learning and the golden door to opportunity. First Book knows that to open a book is to open a child's mind to a world of new possibilities.

But too many children fail to read at an acceptable level. Reading is a pleasure, but today it is also a necessity. Students who don't learn to read well in their early years cannot keep up in their later years. That is why literacy programs are so important. They give young children practical opportunities to learn to read and practice reading.

As a volunteer for a reading program in Washington, I know that literacy and mentoring programs make a difference not only for the children who participate in them, but the children in the program make a difference in my life, too.

This is the fourth year that Jasmine and I have been reading partners at Brent Elementary School, and it is very impressive to see her make progress as a reader. There is nothing more exciting for Jasmine and me than when we get to choose a brand new book to read together.

If we all work together, families, schools and communities, children will have the support they need to become good readers in their early years, and gain an appreciation for reading that will last a lifetime.

#### TAXES, THE ECONOMY AND THE FUTURE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, after nearly a decade of economic growth, historic gains in productivity and reining in the Federal budget deficits, Congress is now considering enacting a tax