

training for emergency operations personnel, emergency medical personnel, and physicians. This training would focus on teaching advanced skills that will dramatically increase the technical capacity of emergency response organizations to manage incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, explosive, and environmental agents. Training participants would also learn how to increase public confidence and foster organizational cooperation among local, State, Federal, and private sector emergency responders. Relationships fostered by this training will help to increase communications among local, regional and national emergency response organizations regarding mutual aid, information sharing, emergency credentialing, equipment interoperability, security clearances, and secure communication systems.

Second, the center will focus on ensuring the biological security of our Nation's agricultural assets and natural resources. Playas will provide a secure environment where university researchers can work collaboratively with private sector companies to study our homeland security challenges and develop new tools for fighting terrorist activities. The center will allow our researchers to network with other scientists throughout the world to develop and maintain constantly evolving strategies for dealing with biological security threats or breaches. Initially, these research efforts will focus on food supply security including crops and livestock, pipeline security, and transportation system security.

New Mexico Tech will be the lead organization for this project and will provide the administrative, maintenance, and operations infrastructure needed to support this project. New Mexico Tech will conduct extensive research and training programs at this location. Its research efforts will be coordinated closely with programs currently offered on its Socorro campus and will include research initiatives regarding dirty bomb detection; suicide bomb detection; and oil and gas infrastructure protection. New Mexico Tech's training efforts will focus on providing advanced skills training for emergency personnel and will build on the first responder training currently offered by the university.

New Mexico State University will focus its efforts on conducting research and developing complementary programming that will protect our Nation's natural and agricultural resources from biological security breaches. Though significant natural biological security breaches have occurred in the past decade, current security trends indicate that in the near term even greater risks may be associated with breaches maliciously perpetrated by terrorist organizations. NMSU's research efforts would focus on securing our Nation's agricultural and biological environments that would include developing a state-of-the-art

rural border crossing facility with testing and engineering facilities. This would include assessing our Nation's agricultural security infrastructure, preventative activities, training programs, and response protocols.

The Playas purchase would add significantly to the DHS infrastructure arsenal by providing a working town for real world training scenarios like those carried out at Hogan's Alley, a mock town used to train agents at the FBI's training academy in Quantico, VA. I believe that this could prove to be a very useful piece of property for the Department of Homeland Security. There are undoubtedly a number of possibilities as to potential uses for this land, including an infrastructure protection and training center. We all recognize that real world training for first responders and anti-terrorist organizations within our government will be of vital importance to accomplishing our mission. Because the entire necessary infrastructure is in place, this town could be used for training personnel charged with protecting our homeland. Furthermore, our Nation must be able to handle agricultural and biological outbreaks that could significantly harm our citizens and create chaos in our agricultural sector. Playas is the perfect location to study and train against these problems.

I suggest that the Department of Homeland Security work with NM Tech to purchase this town. I am certain it could be a great training and research asset for the new Department.

FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I express my concern about the Committee recommendation for the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, which is provided \$140 million in the Senate version of the FY 2004 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

I understand the desire of the Committee to give the Department of Homeland Security the maximum flexibility to identify threats and appropriately respond to them. However, there are ongoing programs that I believe deserve the Committee's support and that need to be put in place to assist with this important responsibility.

The National Domestic Preparedness Consortium is one of those programs. I believe the consortium needs about double the amount in the current bill to meet the need to train our first responders—our firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel.

The National Domestic Preparedness consortium was created with the able guidance and support of Senator GREGG following the 1998 Oklahoma City bombing tragedy. Senator GREGG has been the leader in the Senate in recognizing the potential threat of terrorism and providing direction and funding to prepare the nation to respond to this threat in his position as Chairman of the Committee, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations Subcommittee.

The consortium, which includes the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology as one of its training partners, has the expertise to train our first responders in conventional explosives.

New Mexico Tech alone has trained more than 6,000 first responders at its one-week advanced course, and more than 40,000 first responders in its general course.

The other consortium training partners—Texas A&M University, Louisiana State University, and the Nevada Test Site—have unique facilities and expertise to give our first responders the best training, and coordinated training that is so important during an emergency situation. The consortium is led by the National Preparedness Center at Fort McClellan, AL.

I firmly believe we need to support the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium with the funding needed to fully utilize its capacity and to train as quickly as possible the additional thousands of first responders who need training in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion.

The \$20 million provided to each of the four training partners in the consortium is below the \$30 million they each received in FY 2001 and FY 2002. It is an artificial level developed with the delay in enacting the FY 2003 appropriations bills that eventually passed as a consolidated bill this past February, nearly five full months into the fiscal year.

I hope as this bill moves forward that we will recognize this extremely valuable homeland security asset and will provide significantly more funding for the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium in the final bill so that we can train our first responders without delay.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, after discussing the plan for further consideration of this bill, we understand there are a few more amendments that are going to be offered. We have the expectation we can complete action tomorrow on this bill after we consider the amendments that remain to be offered.

I know of no Senators who plan to offer amendments at this time to the bill. If there are any Senators who want to offer amendments, I am prepared to stay as long as Senators want to discuss their amendments. I await the pleasure of the Senate.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

now proceed to a period of morning business.

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

JAMES DAVIS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to say a word about the tragedy in New York. I knew James Davis quite well. I spoke at his inaugural. He doesn't live very far from me in Brooklyn. I will speak more about him tomorrow. But I just want to say that he was a wonderful man. He had a smile on his face a mile wide. He was so happy. After many tries, he was elected to the city council. His devotion to the people he represented and to his ideals was second to none. It was a terrible tragedy. We all regret it.

There is a sad face hanging over New York and America tonight. We pray for James, for his family, for his friends, and for everyone in his life who he touched.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF STROM THURMOND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, shortly before Senator Thurmond retired from the Senate, I included a tribute in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on his long career. As the Senate notes his passing so soon after his retirement, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my earlier remarks from September 24, 2002.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a colleague who has a career of public service that may never be matched again in the history of our country.

Strom Thurmond sits on the other side of the aisle in the Senate chamber but I consider him a friend with whom I have worked closely. I will miss him.

We often worked together in the field of antitrust laws. We worked together on the National Cooperative Production Amendments of 1993, the very first high technology bill signed by President Clinton, and to improve the protections against anticompetitive conduct in the Digital Performance Rights in Sound Recordings Act.

Senator Thurmond has been a legislator. I must admit that when Senator Thurmond and I have worked together, it has raised some eyebrows. Whenever we introduced legislation together, he and I fondly remarked that the bill was either a brilliant piece of drafting or one of us had not read it.

Needless to say, there have been many occasions when Strom and I sat on opposite sides of an issue. Even though there were issues about which we felt deeply, Senator Thurmond always conducted himself with the utmost integrity. Strom has always told the Senate how he felt and did so with the people of South Carolina first and foremost in his mind.

Senator Thurmond has always been a gentleman. His warmth and kindness one afternoon in the Senate Dining Room framed what has to be one of the strangest meetings of all times in that venue. In 1994, I invited Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead to join me for lunch in the dining room. As we sat down for lunch, Senator Thurmond entered

the room and came over to say hello. I took the opportunity to introduce him to Jerry. It was quite a meeting of cultures.

Besides our devotion to the Senate, I share with Senator Thurmond the distinction of being from a State that has provided the Senate Judiciary Committee with three Chairmen over the history of the Committee. South Carolina and Vermont each have had three Senators who have chaired the Committee.

I have learned much from the senior Senator from South Carolina. Let me share with you one additional aspect of Senator Thurmond's legacy to the Senate as he completes this term and retires from office. In addition to all his longevity records and legislative achievements and buildings named for him, there is something else about him I will always remember.

When we hold hearings for Federal judges—and we have held a number this year—I am always careful to carry on a tradition that Senator Thurmond started. Senator Thurmond always reminded nominees for high office that it is essential to treat others with courtesy and respect. He always reminded nominees that the people and lawyers who appeared before them, whatever their position in the case, whether rich or poor, white or black, man or woman, whatever their religious or political affiliation, they are each and every one deserving of respect and fairness.

Senator Thurmond was right to remind judges—and even Senators—of that simple rule. It is another contribution he has made to all of us that will continue to serve us well.

Mr. President, as I said earlier, I will miss Strom Thurmond. He has been named President-Pro-Tempore Emeritus for good reason.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of the American Political Science Association's congressional fellowship program. It is the oldest program on Capitol Hill designed to place professionals from a variety of backgrounds in Congress for 1 year. Since its modest beginning in 1953, APSA's congressional fellowship program has grown into the established and respected program that it is today.

The intent of the program is to immerse professionals in the legislative process of the U.S. Congress. These midcareer professionals are chosen by way of a careful selection process, go through a congressional orientation program, and participate in biweekly education seminars throughout their fellowships. These individuals come from academia, journalism, foreign countries, the health care field, and Federal Government. Each year, the selected fellows serve on congressional staffs and acquire "hands on" experience while gaining insight into the legislative process, politics, and public service. This unique opportunity enhances APSA fellows' knowledge of, and scholarship on, Congress and policy-making, which can only help improve public understanding of our Government. In turn, our constituents benefit by the expertise the fellows bring to Congress. More than 1,800 individ-

uals have participated in the program since its inception; today the average annual class consists of 40 to 45 fellows.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the fact that the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship program became affiliated with APSA in 1974. This prestigious fellowship program, which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is administered by the Institute of Medicine, enables midcareer health care professionals to experience the intersection of policy and politics first hand. It is an invaluable interaction from which we all benefit; my office benefits from the expertise these professionals bring to Congress, while the fellows return to their professions and their communities with a better understanding of the policy process.

Over the years, I have been pleased to host a number of APSA and RWJ fellows who have provided unique insights and capabilities and have helped me in making important differences in the lives of Utahns in areas such as health care, tax, economic, and natural resource policy. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to share in this program, and I commend APSA for initiating the program 50 years ago. I hope it will continue for many years to come.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the American Political Science Association, APSA, Congressional Fellowship Program.

The APSA Fellowship Program is a highly selective, nonpartisan legislative working experience that provides fellows with "hands-on" experience as legislative assistants on personal or committee staff. Founded in 1953, the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program helps to expand the knowledge and awareness of Congress to professionals from academia, journalism, health care, foreign countries, and government agencies. It enables fellows to observe and participate in the inner workings of Congress and the policy-making process. In doing so, fellows gain a greater appreciation for and knowledge of the policymaking process. Overall, the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program offers an enriching experience for its participants by providing a 3-week orientation program, allowing fellows to select their own placements, and conducting ongoing seminars throughout the fellowship period.

I have been fortunate to host four APSA fellows. In 2000, Hanna Marter, a Federal fellow from the Central Intelligence Agency joined my staff to work on health issues. In 2002, Joyce Iutcovitch, an American Sociological Association fellow, worked in my office on education issues, and Deborah Wolf, a Federal agency fellow from the Food and Drug Administration, worked on health care issues. Currently, Susan Dimock, an American Sociological Association fellow, is serving on my staff working on health care issues. APSA