Mr. HARKIN. Yes, I have received a good many calls as well. And, I have to say that I would be very concerned, as I know the Senator from Utah is, if anything in the bill we are considering, S. 1082, would overturn DSHEA, a law we fought side-by-side to be enacted.

Mr. ENZI. It might be helpful if I explained the provision you are discussing, as my office has received many calls as well and I believe the callers are not informed about this matter. Subtitle B of title II of S. 1082 establishes the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration. That simple purpose of that nonprofit Foundation is to lead collaborations among the FDA, academic research institutions and industry designed to bolster research and development productivity, provide new tools for improving safety in regulated product evaluation, and in the long term make the development of those products more predictable and manageable.

Mr. Hatch. That is exactly the purpose of the Foundation, which was included in the drug safety legislation Senator ENZI and I introduced last year. The Foundation will be financially supported by industry and philanthropic funds. A chief scientist at FDA will promote intramural research and coordinate it with efforts at the Foundation.

Mr. HATCH. That explanation is very helpful. What, specifically, would the role of the Foundation be with respect to dietary supplements?

Mr. KENNEDY. Let me make absolutely clear that the Reagan-Udall Foundation will in no way override, overturn or conflict with the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act. Nothing in this bill would have that effect.

Mr. ENZI. Yes, we took great pains to make certain there would be no conflict with DSHEA. Regarding foods, and dietary supplements are generally regulated in the same way. The general directive of the Foundation is to identify holes in the evaluation of food safety and identify ways to address those deficiencies through collaborative research with industry.

Mr. HARKIN. So to make this absolutely clear, what you are saying is that the bill we are debating would in no way interfere with consumers’ access to dietary supplements?

Mr. HATCH. To add to that point, it seems that the language could, in fact, help dietary supplement consumers, because it would allow collaboration between government and industry to conduct research on issues that might be helpful to supplement consumers?

Mr. KENNEDY. Yes, that is the case.

Mr. ENZI. I agree with Chairman KENNEDY’s assessment.

Mr. HATCH. I thank you for those assurances and that clarification.

Mr. HARKIN. This has been a very helpful discussion, because Senator Hatch and I could never support legislation that would interfere with DSHEA and we are glad to receive the assurances of the chairman and the ranking Republican on the committee.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, when I was a young law student at Georgetown, the event that stands out the most in my memory was a morning that I and a few other young law students working at various agencies for the summer had with the then Attorney General. It was Attorney General Robert Kennedy. In that meeting, he stressed to us over and over again the professionalism of the Department of Justice and how the professionals had to stay out of any kind of partisan politics and that he would insist upon it. I was inspired by that meeting. I think it probably shaped my decision to go into politics more than any other single meeting I had.

I ask unanimous consent that an article in today’s USA Today by Ronald Goldfarb entitled “Crossing the Line at Justice” be printed in the RECORD.

The current agenies of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales call to mind a dramatic moment in the Robert F. Kennedy Justice Department. Members of his organized crime section were in RFK’s office reviewing our pending investigations and cases. One of our group advised Kennedy that his grand jury investigations were about to lead to the indictment of the then-mayor of a large Midwestern city, one that had voted for his brother John F. Kennedy in the close presidential election of 1960.

When my colleague completed his report about the big scalp about to be added to our Washington family, Kennedy whispered to me that he was worried that the not open-and-shut case RFK was going to have to put me on the Supreme Court. Everyone wanted to help Landis, who faced imminent indictment, but Landis probably would not have suffered so. Everyone wanted to help Landis, but they were very concerned about the propriety of doing so.

A similar moment arose when an investigation showed that the brother of the influential congressman from New York, Eugene Keogh, had abused his office as a New York state supreme court judge. Kennedy agonized over the political pressures on him; he worried that the not open-and-shut case might not be winnable, after major political embarrassment to Kennedy loyalists. To his credit, Keogh told Kennedy he knew he’d do the right and fair thing. The attorney general’s aides pressed him to do what he’d do in any other non-political case. Judge J. Vincent Keogh was indicted and convicted. That is the one way an attorney general can keep the balance of justice even and credible.

Mr. HARKIN. This has been a very helpful discussion, because Senator Hatch and I could never support legislation that would interfere with DSHEA and we are glad to receive the
Valerie Plame leak case, others set the political process in motion, and the loyal aide did the deed and took the rap. The Senate should not stop at Gonzales’ actions, but should press forward to assure him to take these unconscionable actions.

Ashcroft superciliously draped the body of the department’s statue of justice to hide his immorality before tore off her blindfold. Both diminished the prestige of an important government agency.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ANTHONY J. “LAZER” LAZARSKI

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I am here today to recognize and pay tribute to COL Anthony J. “Lazer” Lazarski, Chief of the Air Force Senate Liaison, for his 25 years of exceptional service and dedication to the U.S. Air Force and our great country. Colonel Lazarski is a command pilot with over 2,300 flight hours in 12 different types of aircraft, including the RF-4, F-15, F-16, F-111 and F-117. He has supported combat operations around the world, to include the Libya Raid and Operations Desert Storm, Desert Fox, Allied Force, Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his military career, he has led by example and as a leader in the air and on the ground—an Airman with the ability to motivate and lead.

COL Lazer Lazarski grew up in North Arlington, NJ, and watched them build the “Twin Towers of the World Trade Center from the basement up. He earned an appointment to the Air Force Academy and graduated in 1982 with military honors. Upon completion of pilot training, he was selected to fly the F-111 and earned the distinction of youngest instructor pilot. Shortly thereafter, he was selected as the youngest United States Air Forces in Europe flight examiner. As a pilot, I can attest to the fact that you only allow your sharpest and most mature officers in the world to help you train and lead. As a leader in the air and on the ground, he is an Airman with the ability to motivate and lead.

Colonel Lazarski oversaw 115 aircraft averaging 300 sorties a day, despite five hurricanes. He was responsible for training new pilots in the T-6, and new fighter pilots and weapons officers in the T-38. Colonel Lazarski oversaw 115 aircraft averaging 300 sorties a day, despite five hurricanes. In one season, no student ever graduated late under Colonel Lazarski’s leadership.

In 2005 at the culmination of an exceptional military career, Colonel Lazarski was reassigned to the 479th Flying Training Group where he was responsible for training new pilots in the T-6, and new fighter pilots and weapons officers in the T-38. Colonel Lazarski oversaw 115 aircraft averaging 300 sorties a day, despite five hurricanes. In one season, no student ever graduated late under Colonel Lazarski’s leadership.

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Mr. BOND. Madam President, today I rise to acknowledge the very special and meaningful contributions of Ms. Heideh Shahmoradi, who is departing the U.S. Senate after serving as aide to Senator Domenici for some 4 years from the Department of Transportation. I come to the floor today to thank personally Heideh for her assistance and professionalism as a aide to me on both the Environment and Public Works, EPW, Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

In my former position as chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Heideh provided me with invaluable advice and help in the development and passage of the highway reauthorization legislation. Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA. Heideh played a key role in helping the committee understand the complexities and implications of SAFETEA which helped to ensure that the final legislation properly balanced these very complex policy and funding issues. And as a program expert from the Department of Transportation, Heideh was able to provide valuable insights on the potential impact of the legislation on highway transportation projects.

Heideh not only contributed significantly in analyzing the legislation but she also performed important duties, such as research, fact-checking, drafting report language and legislation. Heideh did it all with distinction and unfailingly good humor.

Her skills and performance on working on the EPW Committee made it an easy decision to bring her back from the Department to help me on the Appropriations Committee. Heideh not only contributed significantly in analyzing the legislation but she also performed important duties, such as research, fact-checking, drafting report language and legislation. Heideh did it all with distinction and unfailingly good humor.

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