

Lasallian family, especially relatives of the Brothers and former Brothers, based on the concept of stewardship for the Lasallian tradition. "Associates in Stewardship" was a constant theme in his quarterly publication called Lasallian Notes. He took special care to celebrate the lives of the deceased Brothers and to keep in contact with their families, most notably through the annual Memorial Mass. Involved as he was in public relations for the district, Brother Stephen never lost his association with Manhattan College. He rarely missed a formal college event, alumni gathering, funeral or social occasion, traveling from Lincroft by hired limo when he could no longer drive and serving as a kind of informal public relations person for the College. When the strain of his very active retirement proved to be too much for his declining physical resources, he retired reluctantly but gracefully in 2004, at age 83, and took up residence in De La Salle Hall. There, he died peacefully on January 9, 2007.

—Luke Salm, F.S.C.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE TOOKER

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the lifetime work of the artist George Tooker. Earlier this month, President Bush presented him with the National Medal of Arts, our Nation's highest and most prestigious award for artistic excellence.

George Tooker, born in New York City, is a resident of Hartland, VT. After studying English literature at Harvard and then studying painting at the Art Students League of New York, he found a world of modern possibilities in the medieval and Renaissance medium of egg tempera, helping to begin a revitalization of that technique. The choice of egg tempera gave his paintings an archaic and otherworldly feel, creating wonderfully rich juxtapositions as Tooker often used contemporary subjects and circumstances as the theme of his work. For instance, many of his paintings convey images of modernity and alienation while using colors, surface finishes, and techniques that harken back to the long tradition of art history. But they do more, of course; the reference to that long tradition of culture foregrounds the current manifestations of that culture, which George Tooker addresses as his subject.

Although some have seen elements of fantasy in his paintings, George Tooker has been explicit; he seeks not an escape into a dream world but, rather, the creation of a new approach to realism. "I am after painting reality impressed on the mind so hard that it returns as a dream, but I am not after painting dreams as such, or fantasy," he once said.

His haunting works often highlight the increased social isolation that has accompanied the pressures of modernization on everyday life. He deals with society and its very real consequences; although many of his paintings retain a magical and stylized feel, at their heart are images that have the capacity to reveal and reflect many of the deepest feelings each viewer of

Tooker's work encounters in his or her own life in the contemporary world.

I commend Mr. George Tooker for his important contributions to American art and congratulate him on receiving the National Medal of Arts. We in Vermont are proud of his accomplishment.●

RECOGNIZING MAINE MACHINE PRODUCTS COMPANY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, with tremendous enthusiasm, I recognize Maine Machine Products Company, a phenomenal small business from my home State of Maine that manufactures products for various hi-tech industries. Because of its hard work and dedication to leading its field, Maine Machine Products was recognized with the Maine Development Foundation's Champion of Economic Development Award at the Foundation's annual meeting on October 5, 2007. Headquartered in South Paris, Maine Machine Products has a history replete with innovation and success, and is a company highly deserving of such an aptly titled award.

Founded in 1956 by Roland Sutton, Maine Machine Products is a custom precision manufacturer of components and assemblies whose products are sent to global high-technology markets including those serving the defense and aerospace, telecom and fiber optic, and semiconductor markets. Located in a temperature-controlled 75,000-square-foot building in western Maine, Maine Machine Products employs roughly 150 highly skilled workers who consistently produce products of the finest quality for these vital industries. Always seeking to be on the cutting edge of technology, Maine Machine Products earlier this year began working with the Mazak Integrex e-Series, which is the most advanced multitasking machine in custom precision manufacturing. The machine allows the company to complete all operations, such as turning, boring, and drilling, in a single setup, increasing productivity and efficiency. Additionally, the firm has upgraded its Clean Room, where it tests and finishes semiconductor equipment, by expanding it and making other improvements.

More than merely adding to its existing infrastructure, Maine Machine Products has made significant contributions to both its employees and the western Maine community. Two programs, in particular, demonstrate the attention that the company pays to its workers and aspiring manufacturing personnel. First, Maine Machine Products makes use of the machine operators skills training grant, MOST, program, that assists firms with the training of their computer numerical control, or CNC, operators. In addition, the program attempts to fill open CNC positions with nontraditional workers by training individuals and matching them with employers. In MOST's inaugural season, 52 incumbent Maine Ma-

chine Products employees received training through the program, and the company hired 6 new employees who participated.

Through a second program, Maine Machine Products gives scholarships to students who are enrolled in the Machine Tool Program at Central Maine Community College based in Auburn. Since its inception in 1974, Maine Machine Products' scholarship program has sponsored 47 scholarships. The program provides a work-study program to students who qualify, and—most fittingly—many graduates of the scholarship program are presently employed at Maine Machine Products.

Maine Machine Products has filled a specific niche in the precision custom manufacturing industry for over five decades, and it continues to be a market leader. With measured expansion and sustained growth throughout the years, Maine Machine Products has excelled in a highly technical and competitive field. I wish everyone at Maine Machine Products continued success and growth in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1429. An act to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes.

At 2:43 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2082) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; it agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. REYES, HASTINGS of Florida, BOSWELL, CRAMER, Ms. ESHOO, Messrs. HOLT, RUPPERSBERGER, TIERNEY, THOMPSON of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Messrs. LANGEVIN, PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, HOEKSTRA, EVERETT, GALLEGLY, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Messrs. THORNBERRY, MCHUGH, TIAHRT, ROGERS of Michigan, and ISSA.

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of defense tactical intelligence and related activities: Messrs. SKELTON, SPRATT, and HUNTER.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 710) to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to provide that criminal penalties do not apply to paired donations of human kidneys, and for other purposes; with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1662. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to seek limited reimbursement for site security activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2246. To provide for the release of any reversionary interest of the United States in and to certain lands in Reno, Nevada.

H.R. 3887. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other persons.

H.R. 3998. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources studies of certain lands and structures to determine the appropriate means for preservation, use, and management of the resources associated with such lands and structures.

H.R. 4118. An act to exclude from gross income payments from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund to the victims of the tragic event at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.

At 3:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2371. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make technical corrections.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; it agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SKELTON, SPRATT, ORTIZ, TAYLOR, ABERCROMBIE, REYES, SNYDER, SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Messrs. BRADY of Pennsylvania, ANDREWS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, MARSHALL, Ms. BORDALLO, Messrs. UDALL of Colorado, HUNTER, SAXTON, MCHUGH, EVERETT, BARTLETT of Maryland, MCKEON, THORNBERRY, JONES of North Carolina, HAYES, AKIN, FORBES, WILSON of South Carolina, TURNER, KLINE of Minnesota, and Mrs. DRAKE.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HOEKSTRA.

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of sections 561, 562, 675, 953, and 3118 of the House bill, and sections 561, 562, 564, 565, and 3137 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. WALBERG.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sections 311-313 and 1082 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. DINGELL, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. BARTON of Texas.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of sections 831, 833, 1022, 1201, 1203, 1204, 1206-1208, 1221, 1222, 1231, 1241, 1242, title XIII, and section 3117 of the House bill, and sections 871, 934, 1011, 1201-1203, 1205, 1211, 1212, 1214, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1232, title XIII, sections 1511, 1512, 1532, 1533, 1539-1542, 1571, 1574-1576, 1579, 3134, and 3139 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of section 1076 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 582, 672, 673, and 850 of the House bill, and sections 824, 1023, 1024, 1078, 1087, 1571-1574, 1576, 1577, 1579, and title LII of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of sections 325, 326, 328-330, 604, 653, 674, 801, 802, 814, 815, 821-824, 1101-1112, 1221, 1231, and 1451 of the House bill, and sections 366-370, 603, 684, 821, 823, 842, 845, 846, 871, 902, 937, 1064, 1069, 1074, 1093, 1101-1106, 1108, 1540, 1542, and 2851 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to con-

ference: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. DAVIS of Virginia.

From the Committee on Science and Technology, for consideration of sections 846, 1085, and 1088 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Ms. GIFFORDS, and Mr. EHLERS.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of sections 828, 1085, 1088, 4001, 4002, 4101-4103, 4201-4203, and 4301-4305 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. CHABOT.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 523 and 1048 of the House bill, and sections 311-313, 353, 1070, 2853, 2855, 2863, 5101, 5202, and 5208 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. GRAVES.

From the Committee on Veterans Affairs, for consideration of sections 525, 1421, 1433, and 1453 of the House bill, and sections 701, 710, 1084, 1611, 1612, 1621, 1626, 1634, 1641, 1654, 1662, and 1702-1712 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. FILNER, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. BUYER.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of section 536 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STARK, and Mr. CAMP of Michigan.

At 6:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2517. An act to amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act to authorize appropriations; and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1662. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to seek limited reimbursement for site security activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2246. An act to provide for the release of any reversionary interest of the United States in and to certain lands in Reno, Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3887. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3998. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources studies of certain lands and structures to determine the appropriate means for preservation, use, and management of the resources associated with such lands and structures; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.