

Now, even though we have stayed out of debt and only have \$3,000.00 left to pay on our car, we are afraid. Food prices have risen so that last year, my family of six was eating and maintaining a household on \$300.00 per week, and that included gas for the drive my husband has to work. That budget has now increased to \$500.00 per week.

My son, a second-year electrical engineering student at ISU, may not be able to go back to college this year because the gas to get there is just too much on top of the increased cost of tuition. My daughter, a senior this year, cannot get a job because the cost of driving to work would eat up her minimum wage paycheck.

Those of us who work hard, stay out of debt and invest our money in the American way of life are now told to move our money away from U.S. investments and go elsewhere where the economy is more stable, but what does that say about the country that we live in? We do not feel secure, we do not feel safe and we do not feel any comfort in the Senate, Congress or the Presidency. This is summer; when the demand for fuel goes up in the winter and we do not have enough money to pay for gas to go to work, let alone food for our children to eat, how are we going to keep warm or live? This winter, I think this country is going to see many people pushed to the brink of chaos because there is no other choice. Oil needs to be taken off the speculation market. This doesn't just affect our way of life here in the U.S.; it is also affecting world markets and food prices around the globe.

D.S., *Rigby*.

JOINT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN VENTURE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, the New York Times recently published an article entitled "Web Start-up a Joint Israeli-Palestinian Venture" and, as the title suggests, it is a story about a group of Israeli and Palestinian entrepreneurs that have joined forces to start an internet business venture. Mr. President, I will ask to have the New York Times article printed in the RECORD. What is impressive about this story is that technology, in the form of Internet-based video teleconferencing, has been able to jump boundaries to allow people to work together while apart by enabling this business, G.ho.st, to use the Internet to complete many of the day-to-day tasks that ordinarily require actual face-to-face contact. More importantly, this business venture is yet another example of the good will that exists on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide.

In March 2005, I had the opportunity to travel with six Michiganders, three Palestinian-Americans and three Jewish-Americans, to Israel and the Palestinian territories to study the possibility of joint Israeli-Palestinian business ventures. During this visit, we met with entrepreneurs active in a full range of industries, from agriculture to textiles to software development to manufacturing. While these joint business ventures cannot make peace, they do help foster good will, and they demonstrate the potential for effective, economic coexistence if a final peace agreement can be reached.

More recently, during a trip to Israel to present the Senate resolution com-

memorating the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel, I learned of what I hope will be a major joint economic venture. During my meeting with President Shimon Peres, I learned about the Valley of Peace Initiative, a large-scale undertaking to construct a tourism corridor. The Valley of Peace is envisioned to stretch over the 500 kilometers along the Israeli-Jordanian border, from the Red Sea to the Yarmuk River. Under the current plan, the Valley of Peace initiative includes several projects, ranging from a water conduit connecting the Red Sea and the Dead Sea in an attempt to prevent the latter from drying up, to an Israeli-Jordanian airport near Eilat and Aqaba, to a connection of the Jordanian and Israeli railway systems and a mutual Israeli-Palestinian Authority industrial zone. While the initiative is still in the idea stage, it could offer a major opportunity for joint economic cooperation between Israelis, Palestinians, and, in this case, Jordanians.

Employment and economic growth are critical to fostering stability for Israelis and Palestinians alike. G.ho.st is another example of a promising partnership that can benefit the region in ways that surpass the positive economic impact. Should their business model prove to be a success, it would bode well for building additional partnerships and fostering further much-needed goodwill in the region.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have The New York Times article to which I referred printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times, May 29, 2008]

ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS LAUNCH WEB START-UP

(By Dina Kraft)

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK.—Nibbling doughnuts and wrestling with computer code, the workers at G.ho.st, an Internet start-up here, are holding their weekly staff meeting—with colleagues on the other side of the Israeli-Palestinian divide.

They trade ideas through a video hookup that connects the West Bank office with one in Israel in the first joint technology venture of its kind between Israelis and Palestinians. "Start with the optimistic parts, Mustafa," Gilad Parann-Nissany, an Israeli who is vice president for research and development, jokes with a Palestinian colleague who is giving a progress report. Both conference rooms break into laughter.

The goal of G.ho.st is not as lofty as peace, although its founders and employees do hope to encourage it. Instead G.ho.st wants to give users a free, Web-based virtual computer that lets them access their desktop and files from any computer with an Internet connection. G.ho.st, pronounced "ghost," is short for Global Hosted Operating System.

"Ghosts go through walls," said Zvi Schreiber, the company's British-born Israeli chief executive, by way of explanation. A test version of the service is available now, and an official introduction is scheduled for Halloween.

The Palestinian office in Ramallah, with about 35 software developers, is responsible for most of the research and programming. A

smaller Israeli team works about 13 miles away in the central Israeli town of Modiin.

The stretch of road separating the offices is broken up by checkpoints, watch towers and a barrier made of chain-link fence and, in some areas, soaring concrete walls, built by Israel with the stated goal of preventing the entry of Palestinian suicide bombers.

Palestinian employees need permits from the Israeli army to enter Israel and attend meetings in Modiin, and Israelis are forbidden by their own government from entering Palestinian cities.

When permits cannot be arranged but meetings in person are necessary, colleagues gather at a rundown coffee shop on a desert road frequented by camels and Bedouin shepherds near Jericho, an area legally open to both sides.

Dr. Schreiber, an entrepreneur who has already built and sold two other start-ups, said he wanted to create G.ho.st after seeing the power of software running on the Web. He said he thought it was time to merge his technological and commercial ambitions with his social ones and create a business with Palestinians.

"I felt the ultimate goal was to offer every human being a computing environment which is free, and which is not tied to any physical hardware but exists on the Web," he said. The idea, he said, was to create a home for all of a user's online files and storage in the form of a virtual PC.

Instead of creating its own Web-based software, the company taps into existing services like Google Docs, Zoho and Flickr and integrates them into a single online computing system.

G.ho.st also has a philanthropic component: a foundation that aims to establish community computer centers in Ramallah and in mixed Jewish-Arab towns in Israel. The foundation is headed by Noa Rothman, the granddaughter of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister slain in 1995.

"It's the first time I met Palestinians of my generation face to face," said Ms. Rothman, 31, of her work with G.ho.st. She said she was moved by how easily everyone got along. "It shows how on the people-to-people level you can really get things done."

Investors have put \$2.5 million into the company so far, a modest amount. Employing Palestinians means the money goes farther; salaries for Palestinian programmers are about a third of what they are in Israel.

But Dr. Schreiber, who initially teamed up with Tareq Maayah, a Palestinian businessman, to start the Ramallah office, insists this is not just another example of outsourcing.

"We are one team, employed by the same company, and everyone has shares in the company," he said.

At G.ho.st's offices in Ramallah, in a stone-faced building with black reflective glass perched on a hill in the city's business district, employees say they feel part of an intensive group effort to create something groundbreaking. Among them are top young Palestinian programmers and engineers, recruited in some cases directly from universities.

The chance to gain experience in creating a product for the international market—a first for the small Palestinian technology community—means politics take a backseat to business, said Yusef Ghandour, a project manager.

"It's good we are learning from the Israeli side now," Mr. Ghandour said. The Israelis, he said, "are open to the external world, and there is lots of venture capital investment in Israel, and now we are bringing that to Palestine."

The departure of educated young people mostly to neighboring Jordan and the Persian Gulf states is a major problem for the

Palestinian economy and has been especially damaging to its technology industry. Since the Oslo peace process broke down in 2000, a wave of Israeli-Palestinian business ties have crumbled as well.

Political tensions make it somewhat unpopular for Palestinians to do business with Israelis, said Ala Alaeddin, chairman of the Palestinian Information Technology Association. He said the concept of a technology joint venture across the divide was unheard-of until G.ho.st opened its doors. A handful of Palestinian tech companies handle outsourced work for Israeli companies, but most focus on the local or Middle Eastern market.

"It's much easier to have outsourcing than a partnership," Mr. Alaeddin said. "A joint venture is a long-term commitment, and you need both sides to be really confident that this kind of agreement will work."

Benchmark Capital, a Silicon Valley venture capital firm with offices in Israel, invested \$2 million in G.ho.st. Michael Eisenberg, a general partner at the firm, said Benchmark was "in the business of risky investments," but that G.ho.st presented entirely new territory.

Recalling his discussions with Dr. Schreiber, Mr. Eisenberg said: "Frankly, when he first told me about it I thought it was ambitious, maybe overly ambitious. But Zvi is a remarkable entrepreneur, and I started to feel he could actually pull this off."

The video hookup runs continuously between the offices. Chatting in the Ramallah conference room, two Palestinian programmers wave hello to Israeli colleagues confering over a laptop in the Modiin office.

"We are doing something across cultures and across two sides of a tough conflict," Dr. Schreiber said. "I was prepared for the possibility that it might be difficult, but it hasn't been."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

EAGLE'S STORE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, there is a little general store in West Yellowstone, MT, that has been there for 100 years. Built in 1908 when only the bravest and most determined Americans were settling the West and the State of Montana was barely 20 years old, Sam and Ida Eagle set up shop.

When Sam and Ida Eagle established Eagle's Store just outside Yellowstone Park's west entrance, they were also establishing, along with three other families, the town that we now call West Yellowstone, MT. The Eagles spent their lives in the town they helped found. They raised a family of 10 children, built their business and played a pioneering role in the community.

Sam served as the postmaster for 25 years and helped create the West Yellowstone airport. He also led the town's struggle to gain title to the properties they had settled.

The Eagle family still owns and operates Eagle's Store today on the land their ancestors received as a Presidential land grant, in a vintage store on the National Register of Historic Places.

A lot has happened in these last 100 years, and Sam and Ida Eagle and their neighbors probably could not have imagined some of the luxuries we take for granted today—coast to coast flights, television, or the Internet.

Our world is still changing, but we have got to make sure we are doing what is right for small towns everywhere. Creating good paying jobs, keeping our economy strong, and ensuring the vitality of places like West Yellowstone, is essential to who we are as Americans.

Of course, some things have not changed all that much in West Yellowstone. The sense of community, the small town values, and the commitment to a job well done still radiate from West Yellowstone's residents. They are timeless qualities still apparent everywhere around town, and they represent the very best of America.●

CONGRATULATING LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE

• Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, today I honor and congratulate one of the most successful athletic programs in the Nation that few people outside of my home State know about: The Lewis-Clark State College baseball team of Lewiston, ID.

This year, head coach Ed Cheff led the LCSC Warriors to yet another NAIA World Series championship. This year's victory makes three championships in a row for the Warriors and 16 overall, all coming in the last 25 years. Those 16 titles are far and away the most in NAIA history, with the second place school having just four.

Despite having only 3,500 students, Lewis-Clark has grown into a national baseball powerhouse under Coach Cheff's tutelage. Since Coach Cheff took over in 1977, the Warriors have put together a winning percentage of 79.8 percent. This year's 58-6 record is the latest and greatest example of his leadership.

And this success isn't just by smaller school, NAIA standards; more than a hundred of Coach Cheff's players have gone on to be drafted by Major League Baseball teams, including four this year.

Idaho does not have a franchise in any of the major sports leagues. We are known for potatoes, not winning championships. But thanks to Lewis-Clark State College baseball—and another successful Idaho college program, Boise State Bronco football—that is changing. LCSC baseball has given Idahoans a team that we can hang our hat on and be proud to call our own.

While sports are perhaps the quickest way for a school to capture headlines, a college or university can thrive only with sustained, high-quality education. Athletics alone do not make a school. The classroom must always be the foundation, and Idaho schools—from Lewis-Clark to Boise State to my alma mater, the University of Idaho—are all institutions of exceptional academic quality.

Madam President, I am proud to see more young Idahoans enjoying success, and I wanted the Senate to be aware of the achievements of the Warrior baseball team. Congratulations to Coach Cheff's team once again.●

TRIBUTE TO GEN T. MICHAEL MOSELEY

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I pay special tribute to GEN T. Michael Moseley, 18th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, who, completed 37 years of distinguished service to our Nation today. He is an exemplary patriot, extraordinary leader, and a close friend.

General Moseley began his accomplished career at Texas A&M and Webb AFB, where he earned his pilot's wings in 1973. He proceeded to a series of demanding assignments as flight instructor, test pilot and mission commander. His peerless operational skills were honed by the most prestigious positions, to include command at every level—most notably the Air Force Fighter Weapons School, the 9th Air Force, and the U.S. Central Command Air Forces. General Moseley led Airmen in peace, crisis and war—from Operation Southern Watch, through the harrowing days in the wake of 9/11, to victory over the Taliban in Operation Enduring Freedom and the destruction of Saddam Hussein's war machine in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The breadth and depth of General Moseley's assignments and the professionalism with which he has carried them out, reflect a keen intellect, and an unrivaled grasp of national security policies and air power's role in implementing them. General Moseley tirelessly worked to reinvigorate the innovation, flexibility, creativity, and strategic thinking that have been hallmarks of America's Airmen since the dawn of aviation. In this context, General Moseley redefined the Air Force for the 21st Century, ensuring that America's guardians will continue to fly, fight and win in both today's and tomorrow's conflicts.

General Moseley has frequently testified before Congress on a wide variety of issues critical not only to the Air Force but to this Nation and its ability to meet uncertain challenges in the future. However controversial the topic or pointed the questioning, he has always provided the Members with his honest evaluation, balancing current crises with future requirements. I have been impressed by his unwavering focus on this Nation's security and ensuring that the U.S. Air Force remains the preeminent Air Force in the world, preserving America's asymmetric advantage in the air.

It was General Moseley's exceptional grasp of warfighters' needs, born of his own combatant experience, that enabled the Air Force to provide unprecedented Global Reach, Global Vigilance and Global Power for both traditional and nontraditional missions. Under his