

this month. The Supply Corps is charged with the responsibility of providing logistical support to all U.S. Navy ships. The Navy Supply Corps was created by Congress in the Naval Armament Act of 1794 and officially began its service to our Nation in 1795.

The Supply Corps has seen many dramatic changes since the early days of its founding. During the late 1790's, each of our Navy ships was assigned a single warrant officer with the enormous responsibility of purchasing and providing all of the necessary equipment and provisions to maintain the ship's daily operations. A modern aircraft carrier serving with the U.S. Navy today may have as many as 15 supply officers aboard. The board variety of duties currently performed by supply officers require them to have detailed knowledge of accounting procedures, food service, foreign currency exchanges, and management of pay records. The Navy Supply Corps School currently trains about 3,800 students per year to become specialists in business, inventory management, financial data processing, transportation, storage procedures, petroleum handling, and purchasing.

I am pleased to note that the Navy Supply Corps School has been located in Athens, GA, since January 15, 1954. Every supply officer serving with the U.S. Navy has been trained at the Supply Corps School in Athens. In addition the school is home to the foreign officer supply course [FOSCO]. Since the course began its operations in 1955, it has graduated more than 1,200 international students/officers from over 50 different countries. The foreign officer supply course serves the extremely important function of increasing the number of military contacts between the United States and other friendly governments. Such contacts enhance the level of understanding between nations and make significant contributions to the cause of peace. Recently, the Navy Supply Corps School received the prestigious "E" Award, which recognizes excellence in the field of training, from the Chief of Naval Education and Training.

The outstanding relationship between the Navy Supply Corps School and the local Athens community should serve as a model for other military installations and host communities to follow. Many of the students and staff at the Navy Supply Corps School actively participate as tutors and mentors for local at-risk students in Athens area schools. While the students benefit from the interaction with much-needed positive role models, the participating service members receive a boost in morale that comes from the realization that they are making a recognizable improvement in the lives of their fellow citizens.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the U.S. Navy Supply Corps for its 200 years of excellent service. We wish it continued success in the future.●

PREEMPTION OF STATE PRODUCT LIABILITY LAWS

● Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I have opposed Federal product liability reform legislation primarily because I believe it is a mistake to replace laws that have been carefully crafted by the State courts and legislature over the past two centuries with a one-size-fits-all piece of legislation developed in Washington, DC. Through the time-tested methods of common law adjudication and legislative adjustment, the State courts and legislatures have worked together to develop tort laws that strike the appropriate balance between the needs of plaintiffs and defendants, and those of consumers and business. Over the past decade, the States have been reforming their own tort systems by experimenting with alternative dispute resolution procedures, caps on punitive damages, and changes in liability standards. In fact, the most recent edition of the American Bar Association Journal reports that State legislatures have taken up more than 70 new tort law bills in their current sessions and that new product liability laws have been enacted in Illinois, Michigan, and North Dakota this year.

This is the way the Federal system is supposed to work. When a problem arises, the States should be the forum for experimenting with new practices and devising new solutions. A Federal law, such as the one passed by the Senate, would bring this experimentation to a grinding halt and make Congress, which has virtually no experience legislating in this area, responsible for the entire Nation's product liability system. It is ironic that this extension of Federal power is coming at a time when we are trying to reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government by shifting authority to the States and localities.

Recently, the National Conference of State Legislatures adopted a resolution opposing Federal product liability legislation. The Conference noted the proposed Federal legislation would conflict with State laws governing tort liability, worker's compensation, and insurance and would place State legislatures and courts in an intolerable legal straightjacket.

I ask that the complete text of the National Conference of State Legislature's resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The resolution follows:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES RESOLUTION ADOPTED JULY 20, 1995

NCSL has reviewed proposed federal legislation that would preempt state law by severely restricting the rights of persons injured by defective products to seek recovery in state courts. Such legislation fails to meet the standards necessary for federal preemption.

In particular, no comprehensive evidence exists demonstrating either that state product liability laws have created a problem of such dimension that a federal solution is warranted or that federal legislation would achieve its stated goals. NCSL believes that

the proposed legislation would create serious new problems in the field of product liability by dictating a single set of rules controlling the timeliness of claims and the admissibility of evidence. It would conflict with long-standing state laws governing tort liability, workers' compensation and insurance regulations. By doing so, such proposals would place state legislatures and state courts in an intolerable legal straightjacket.

Therefore, in conformance with our general policy in opposition to federal preemption of state law and in the conviction that it is particularly improper for the federal government to attempt to restrict citizen access to state courts, the National Conference of State Legislatures strongly opposes all legislation before Congress that would have the effect of preempting state laws regulating recovery for injuries caused by defective products.●

THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ANTITRUST REFORM ACT

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate Judiciary Committee began consideration of the Major League Baseball Antitrust Reform Act, S. 627. I look forward to the committee completing its consideration of this measure at our next business meeting and reporting it to the Senate.

This year the major league season did not begin, of course, until a Federal judge granted an injunction and the owners and players, who had shut the game down last August and robbed fans of pennant races and a World Series, finally declared a ceasefire in their ongoing hostilities. They had to scramble to begin a shortened 144-game schedule.

As far as I can tell the owners and the players have not gotten back to the bargaining table. They are no closer to reaching a collective bargaining agreement than they were 3 months ago. A further unfair trade practices complaint remains pending against the owners.

Interest in major league baseball is undeniably down. Attendance figures show it—they are down between 20 and 30 percent. Ratings for the recent All Star Game were down 10 percent from last year. Advertising and merchandising revenues show it, as well. Both NBC and ABC recently indicated that they will not even bid on broadcast rights for baseball in the future.

In spite of the outstanding years that the Boston Red Sox, Cleveland Indians, California Angels, Cincinnati Reds, Colorado Rockies and Atlanta Braves are having and the young, talented players throughout the leagues, the unsettled business affairs that haunt major league baseball and disillusioned many of its fans. Older fans have been turned off and the younger ones have decided to spend their time and attention on other pursuits.

Meanwhile interest and attendance at minor league baseball games continues. If the Vermont Expos are any indication, fans turned off by the excesses of major league baseball have turned to minor league games. Attendance at Centennial Field for Expos' games is up more than 10 percent and merchandise