

I mourn Henry Knott's death along with his family and the rest of Maryland. We will miss him greatly. However, I am very grateful that he was with us for 89 years, and I rejoice that he left Maryland and our Nation a better place than he found it.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA WILBUR

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, it is unfortunately true that all good things must come to an end. On November 30, 1995, one of the best members of my staff will retire. Patricia Wilbur joined the staff on October 7, 1973, and will soon be joining her husband Perry in a long-deserved respite from the clamor of Capitol Hill.

Pat's career is a virtual survey of the technological revolution's impact on the Senate. As my office's systems administrator, Pat has witnessed the transition from typewriters and mimeograph machines, rotary phones and telegrams, to the world of faxes, pagers, cellular phones and computers. Pat has overseen this transformation with grace and humor as well as consummate professionalism.

The contribution of a good staffer often goes beyond their technical ability. This is especially true with Pat. Fondly known as Mrs. Wilbur to several generations of staffers, Pat has helped shaped the lives of young Oregonians who wish to serve in the U.S. service academies and helped us all to be more efficient in our jobs. Pat has added to our hearts with her generosity and expressions of concern and added to our waistlines with her delicious home-baked cakes.

During her 22 years in our office, Pat has been a laudable embodiment of hard work, dedication and loyalty. She and I have grayed together—she far more gracefully than I. Pat has many good reasons for retiring, but three—her grandchildren Stephanie, Michael, and Julie—are the best. We will miss her institutional memory, her compassion and love as well as her competence but have nothing good wishes as she ends her Senate career.

I am deeply grateful for Pat Wilbur's many years of invaluable assistance and ask my colleagues to join me in offering our thanks for her service to the U.S. Senate.●

#### TWO SIDES AGREE ON OPPOSING GAMBLING

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, Father Robert Drinan, former Member of the House, had a column in the National Catholic Reporter recently that is of interest.

It points out where Catholics and Christian Coalition people can work together, and it is an area where liberals and conservatives can work together.

That is the growing problem of gambling.

I ask that the Robert Drinan column be printed in the RECORD.

The column follows:

#### TWO SIDES AGREE ON OPPOSING GAMBLING

(By Robert F. Drinan)

I was happy to discover recently that I agree with the Christian Coalition on at least one issue: opposition to gambling. Ralph Reed, the coalition's executive director (and a Presbyterian who looks like an altar boy) says that his organization may help finance an antigambling office in Washington. Reed asserts that his organization is "pounding away" at casinos and lotteries.

A conservative Colorado group named Focus on the Family is also pushing an antigambling agenda. Gambling foes are planning their first national convention in Florida. Keynote speaker is Congressman Frank Wolf, a conservative Republican from Virginia who is working aggressively against government-sponsored gambling.

It is far from clear that any coalition of antigambling groups can reverse the explosive growth of this form of entertainment. Lotteries, casinos, riverboat gambling and an ever-widening array of slot machines and other devices took in \$482 billion last year.

Substantial sums from that take have gone to Republicans, including leading presidential candidates. Sen. Robert Dole took in \$477,450 from gambling interests in Las Vegas, Nev. Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas has also benefited.

A further sign of entanglement: The former chairman of the Republican National Committee, Frank Fahrenkopf, is now the head of the American Gambling Association, the industry's trade group.

Daily and vehemently, the new Republican majority in the Congress proclaims agreement with the Christian Coalition on abortion, school prayer and welfare. But when it comes to gambling, the GOP is trapped between its devotion to the Christian Coalition and its desire for campaign contributions from the gambling industry.

Will the Christian Coalition use its newfound power in Congress and some Southern states to reinstate laws against gambling—laws that religious groups, Protestant and Catholic alike, fought to get on the books a century ago?

A clash before next year's presidential election is unlikely. Recognizing that the crusade against gambling is all but a lost cause, even the most ardent adherents of the Christian Coalition's agenda are not about to expend political capital telling state lawmakers to abolish gambling and tax their people fairly.

A further complication is that most Americans have never really focused on gambling's evils. It appeared on the American scene as a phenomenon that is odorless, invisible and inaudible. Hardly anyone is angry or indignant.

Still, the potential for scandal and corruption in the exploding gambling industry is so vast that almost anything could happen.

The protests of the Christian Coalition against gambling should be welcomed by all citizens and persons of faith. The desire to get something for nothing and the fantasy that we can be millionaires overnight are arguably the product of a sinful heart.

Count of Catholics, Mr. Reed, for support. On this issue, Catholics and the Christian Coalition are reading out of the same prayer book.●

#### NURSING HOME QUALITY AND THE BOREN AMENDMENT

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, there has been considerable discussion on the Senate floor about the proposed changes to Federal nursing home quality standards.

In addition to making major cuts in projected Medicaid spending, early versions of the 7-year budget plan would have repealed entirely the nursing home standards adopted in 1987 as part of the Medicaid law. The final House-Senate compromise bill recently adopted by the Congress did not go that far, but it would weaken or eliminate several of these standards and would allow States to get waivers from the remaining Federal requirements.

Several of my colleagues have come to the floor to remind the Senate of the conditions in some nursing homes which led to the adoption of these standards in the first place.

Now I do not believe that all or even most nursing homes drugged or restrained their residents unnecessarily before the quality standards were put in place. Nursing homes in my State have a strong record of providing quality care.

But it is undeniable that some nursing homes did engage in these practices. And it is also undeniable that some states were too slow in putting an end to this kind of abuse. Therefore, I continue to believe that there should be minimum Federal quality standards, especially since the majority of Medicaid funding for nursing homes comes from the Federal Government.

However, one critical point which has not received as much attention in this debate is the ability of nursing homes to maintain the quality of their care—Federal standards or not—in the face of significant reductions in Medicaid reimbursement. As we all know, the budget plan would reduce by \$163 billion future Federal funding for Medicaid. But that is not all.

A little noticed provision of this plan to turn the Medicaid Program into a block grant to the States is the repeal of the Boren amendment. The Boren amendment currently requires States to provide reimbursement to hospitals and nursing homes which is reasonable and adequate to cover their costs. This has provided critical protection from state attempts to cut Medicaid reimbursement below levels necessary to deliver quality care.

My fear is that repealing this protection is part of a deal with the States so that they will accept significantly reduced Federal funding for Medicaid. The budget proposal tells States to make due with less funding, but it allows them to, in effect, shift that funding shortfall onto nursing homes and hospitals. Well it may make the numbers add up, but what will it do to the care these institutions are able to provide to their patients?

So as we continue to debate the various changes which have been proposed to the Medicaid Program, let us not forget that Federal quality standards are not the only part of the Medicaid Program that impact quality of care. The \$163 billion in cuts, combined with the repeal of the Boren amendment are also a great threat to the quality of