I certainly hope these reports are true, and that the meetings are not just publicity stunts for all involved.

While previous commitments will prevent me from attending tomorrow's meeting, I did want to take a moment to add a few thoughts to the discussion.

First, I wish to congratulate the entertainment industry leaders for their decision. Every parent knows that some television programming goes over the line—way over the line—of decency.

And I believe a voluntary rating system, if honestly implemented, will help parents in making informed decisions about what programs their children should and should not watch.

Second, let me urge the entertainment industry not to spend too much time patting themselves on the back.

It is one thing to produce programs that children should not watch, and to inform parents of the content of those programs.

But it is another thing entirely to produce programs that parents are proud to let their children watch.

That is an important distinction I hope Hollywood understands, and one they can respond to only by producing quality, family friendly programming.

Third, let me emphasize that if a rating system is to work, then it must be designed and implemented without any Government meddling or interference.

While I have taken Hollywood to task, I have also made clear that the answer is good corporate citizenship, and not Government censorship.

If the era of big Government is truly over, then the President, the Congress, and the Federal Communications Commission cannot be in the business of reviewing and rating television programs.

Finally, I believe it is very worthwhile to note that the industry's decision to voluntarily rate television programs is proof that the voice of concerned Americans is being heard.

We learned that when outraged citizens forced the Calvin Klein Co. to withdraw ads that were nothing more than child pornography, and we learn it each time a movie that assaults our values sinks at the box office.

The bottom line is that shame does work, and it will continue to work, as long as concerned Americans speak out.

And I am just one of countless concerned Americans who intend to continue to speak out for decency, for civility, and for the future of our children.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—D.C. APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on invoking cloture on the D.C. appropriations conference report occur at 12:30 on Thursday, February 29, with the mandatory quorum being waived; further, that the time from 12 to 12:30 be equally divided in the usual form for debate on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair, and I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 15 minutes.

FULLEST ACCOUNTING—VIETNAM, WHY NOT NORTH KOREA, TOO

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to call to the attention of the Members what I honestly feel is an overlooked issue relative to one of the highest responsibilities that our Government has, and that is the full accountability of those armed services personnel who have been lost in action.

We have always demanded the fullest possible accounting in Vietnam for those listed as missing-in-action, and the question that I pose today is, why not North Korea as well?

The fate of more than 8,100 American servicemen from the Korean war remains unresolved. At least 5,433 of these were lost north of the 38th parallel. In Vietnam, by contrast, the number of unresolved cases is 2,168, and Vietnam has cooperated in 39 joint field activities.

I have a small chart here, Mr. President, that shows the unaccounted for in our foreign wars. Beginning in World War I, we have 1,648 unaccounted for; World War II, 78,794; Korea, 8,177, and Vietnam, 2,168. As I have said, out of the 8,177, 5,433 were lost north of the 38th parallel.

One can see that public opinion has prevailed in demanding a full accounting in Vietnam, and while we must maintain our commitment for accountability of all Americans who are lost, clearly, we have made significant progress in Vietnam as a consequence of a commitment and dedication to do so. So it seems strange that we would still have in North Korea a significant number of servicemen whose fates are unknown.

The United States Government recently announced plans to contribute $2 million, through U.N. agencies, to relieve starvation in North Korea, certainly a worthy cause. The donation was consistent with other instances where the United States seeks to relieve human suffering despite disagreements with various governments in the receiving country.

But what is inconsistent with United States policy is our failure to ensure that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea addresses the humanitarian issue which is of great concern to the American people: the resolution of the fate of servicemen missing in action since the end of the Korean war, those lying north of the 38th parallel.

Relations between the United States and Vietnam—I give you this background as a reference—our relations with Vietnam did not begin to thaw until the Government of Vietnam agreed to joint field operations with United States military personnel to search for missing servicemen in Vietnam. We knew the general areas where conflicts had occurred or where aircraft had gone down. The pace and scope of normalization was commensurate with Vietnam's cooperation on the MIA issue and other humanitarian concerns.

In virtually every discussion that our Government had with their Vietnamese counterparts, the MIA issue was paramount. I know that on the numerous occasions that I visited Vietnam, that was the one message we sent loudly and clearly: You have to cooperate with us on the MIA issue; you have to allow us to bring in our personnel in the joint task force teams; and you have to cooperate with us for a full accountability, otherwise our relationship will not go any further.

So the Vietnamese received clear signals that progress and normalization of relations with the United States would come only after significant progress was made on the MIA issue.

In contrast to our Vietnam policy, United States policy toward North Korea seems to lack this same focus with no explanation. The recent announcement regarding food aid for North Korea did not mention our interests in the MIA issue. There was no explanation as to why.

The agreed framework between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not talk about cooperation on MIA's, even though the framework commits the United States to give the North Koreans free oil and to supply two highly advanced light water reactors, a total package that exceeds $5 billion, $4 billion alone for the reactors and some $500 million for the oil, not counting potential future aid for a grid system to distribute the power that the reactors will produce. North Korea simply does not have the transmission capability to handle the new reactors, so we can expect to be asked for approximately another billion dollars so that the power can go out and be distributed throughout the countryside.

The agreed framework also envisions that the United States would lift its trade restrictions and normalize relations, regardless of, evidently, any movement on the MIA issue. The most obvious difference between Vietnam and North Korea is North Korea's nuclear program; the United States has

an overriding national security interest in stopping the North Korean nuclear program. Nevertheless, I do not believe that we should have ignored the MIA issue. That is why I have introduced Senate bill 1293, legislation that would prevent establishing full diplomatic relations or lifting the trade embargo until the North Koreans have agreed to joint field operations.

I recently had an opportunity to sit down with our dedicated armed services personnel in Hawaii, who are responsible for negotiating with the North Koreans on the issue. These are the people that actually negotiate relative to Americans missing in action. These are the people that identify the remains. They are very dedicated and knowledgeable people, doing a tremendous service for our country. It was clear from that briefing that joint field operations would have a high probability of success because, unlike in Vietnam, the United States has concrete evidence of the sites of mass U.N. burial grounds and prisoners of war camps located in North Korea. But United States personnel have had no access to those North Korean sites. The only thing preventing our personnel from going in and making these identifications is the Government of North Korea.

The North Koreans have been unilaterally turning over some limited remains. Unfortunately, the North Koreans, without training in the proper handling of remains, have turned over excavated remains that have not been properly handled, that have been mixed, making identification vastly more difficult, if in some cases not impossible. Of the 208 sets of remains that have been turned over since 1990, unfortunately, only 5 sets have been identified.

Despite the United States aid flowing to North Korea, the Koreans have repeatedly attempted to link progress on the remains issue to separate compensation. In other words, Mr. President, they expect repayment above and beyond their out-of-pocket costs. These amounts of money seem far in excess of the reimbursement costs for recovery, storage, and transportation of remains.

The U.S. Government must stand by its policy not to buy remains. This would degrade the honor of those who died in combat on behalf of our country. Instead, the United States has offered to reimburse the North Koreans for reasonable expenses, as we have done in Southeast Asia over the last couple of decades. Talks to move the MIA remains and the reparation issue seem stalled at this moment. We have reason to believe that the progress is not what it should be relative to our ability to go into North Korea, to the sites where we know we are likely to find remains.

Now, the United States has been careful not to link the nuclear issue with other policy concerns in North Korea. But it is not unreasonable for the United States to consider North Korea's behavior on other issues, such as the MIA issue, when considering whether to provide humanitarian assistance to this isolated, closed nation.

I was over in Pyongyang last year and can say that, clearly, this is a country that is probably as isolated as any country on Earth. As a consequence, our inability to develop a dialog, other than that which was necessitated after the conversations concerning their efforts to develop a nuclear capability, has brought this whole picture into focus. But the bottom line is that in our negotiations we should demand that we have access so that we can address our responsibility and ask for the fullest possible accounting for those missing, those 5,433 that we believe are still unidentified in North Korea, for the families of those airmen still missing more than 40 years after the end of the conflict. There is no more humane action that North Korea could take than to let Americans have sufficient access to try to resolve as many cases as possible.

Mr. President, we have demanded the fullest accountability from the Government of Vietnam on the MIA issue, and we should demand the same of the Government of North Korea.

I urge my colleagues to reflect on the merits of the legislation I have offered, Senate bill 1293, that would prevent establishing full diplomatic relations or lifting the current trade embargo until the DPRK, the Government of North Korea, has agreed to joint field operations that would allow us to have access to those sites where we believe we can identify and find remains.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

DEREK J. VANDER SCHAAF: A MODEL PUBLIC SERVANT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to today to honor a Federal bureaucrat.

Now I know that Republicans, myself included, have been bashing bureaucrats lately—mostly with good reason.

Most bureaucrats could care less about the taxpayers. They have forgotten who they serve and who owns the money.

Well, I would like to talk about a different kind of bureaucrat. This one is the exception. He is unique. He is a model civil servant. He cares about the taxpayers.

His name is Mr. Derek J. Vander Schaaf.

We know him affectionately as Derek.

Derek was born and raised in a small farm town in northwest Iowa—the town of Hull.

Hull is where his Dutch parents taught him to be so thrifty, to skimp, to penny-pinch, to be honest and work hard.

Mr. President, that's what Derek is all about: being honest and fair, working hard, and saving a penny here and a penny there. But zero tolerance for waste. His Motto is: There shall be no waste, period.

This is Derek to a ''T.'' This is what made him dedicate his life to controlling waste at the Pentagon.

This is what led him into the Office of the Inspector General.

Today, Derek is the Deputy Inspector General at the Department of Defense (DOD). He has occupied that position since it was created in December 1981.

After 33 years of dedicated service, Derek is leaving the government.

He is retiring in March.

Derek first earned a reputation as a junior junk yard dog back in the 1970's as a staff member over on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

He was known for doing his homework.

But he was best known for plowing through mountains of DOD audit reports.

Now, Mr. President, nobody else in the whole world paid much attention to those reports—even though they were produced at great expense and contained some beautiful little nuggets.

DOD audit reports are hard to read. You have to read and re-read them 10 times or more before you can begin to understand what they say.

Well, Derek made a living reading and acting on those reports over in the House.

He would turn the nuggets into savings.

He would find a way to save a penny here and a penny there.

Pretty soon Derek was helping to save big bucks—billions of dollars, I am sure.

Derek's junk yard operation over in the House used to drive the Pentagon brass absolutely nuts.

The generals and admirals used to parade in and out of his office, trying to ''correct his thinking.''

Even an occasional blow with a ball-peen hammer didn't help much.

Derek was never affected by all the high-level attention. He just went about his business like a real professional.

Derek's beefs with the Pentagon always rested on firm ground.

He would skewer the brass with their own reports.

It was very hard for the brass to avoid getting nicked once Derek zeroed in on a problem.

The only thing that saved them was a full-court press lobbying effort with the Committee's members.

The end-run lobbying maneuver didn't faze Derek one bit.

He just read more audit reports and made more cuts. He stayed way ahead of the DOD posse and all the tinhorn deputies.

He just kept right on trucking—saving a penny here and a penny there.

When the DOD IG opened shop in 1981, Mr. Joe Sherick was put in charge. Joe Sherick was the original junk yard dog. He picked Derek to be his deputy dog.

Derek was the perfect choice. He had been a foot soldier in the war against