

fideliy. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert A. and Mrs. Clara Belle McWorkman of West Plains, MO, who on May 30 will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. They understand the meaning of the word "covenant." My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The McWorkmans' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this substantial marker on their journey together.

#### HONORING THE SHANNONS FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data is undeniable: individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Paul and Thelma Shannon of St. Peters, MO, who on June 8, 1996 will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Paul and Thelma's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this substantial marker on their journey together.

#### TRIP TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, HONG KONG, AND TAIWAN

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I recently returned from a trip to the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan over the April recess in my capacity as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs. While I would like at some time to share my observations of that trip with my colleagues, some confusion has arisen in the Asian press over a remark I made on that trip which I feel I need to correct sooner rather than later.

On April 3, I was privileged to have an hour-long meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin at Zhongnanhai in Beijing. A central focus of our discussion was the tense situation in the Taiwan Straits and strained relations between the PRC and Taiwan. When the conversation turned toward what President Jiang perceived to be the then-current situation and prospects for a return to a more stable cross-strait relationship, he replied para-

phrasing a Chinese saying to illustrate his position. The President said, "When the wind blows through the pavilion, it means the rains will come," or, in Chinese, "Shan yu yu lai feng man lou di xing shi si hu yi jing guo qu le." After a brief pause, he then added, "But in this case, I think the rain is over." I took this to be an encouraging sign that, perhaps with the conclusion of Taiwan's presidential election and the PRC's somewhat worrisome military exercises in the Strait, the situation might be calming down and the two sides might be ready to resume cross-strait contacts through the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait and the Straits Exchange Foundation, the two semi official bodies set up to handle that relationship.

After visiting other cities in China and then Hong Kong, I spent a day in Taipei, Taiwan, on the way back to the United States. There I met with Foreign Minister Chen and President Lee Teng-hui, both of whom I told of my conversation with President Jiang, and Jiang's statement about the "rain being over." They found the statement to be encouraging, just as I had. In meetings with the Taiwan press during my stay, I made it clear that I was not delivering a message from the government of the PRC to the Government of Taiwan; I had simply relayed the particulars of my conversation with President Jiang to Chen and Lee. This is where the confusion arose.

One of the Taipei newspapers, on hearing that President Jiang had said "the rain is over" incorrectly assumed that he had cited another Chinese saying: "the rain is over and the sun is shining"—in Chinese "yu guo tian qing." The Taiwan press sometimes tends to shoot first and ask questions later, and other papers were soon picking up the inaccurate statement. As a result, by the next day papers island-wide were reporting that Jiang had made statements that were much more rosy than what was actually said. Not only were the newspaper reports inaccurate, but they missed the entire gist of Jiang's statement. By referring to the saying "the rain is over \* \* \*" but leaving off the part of the saying " \* \* \* the sky is blue," President Jiang was making the specific point that while the storm had passed things were still far from "sunny."

Anyway, Mr. President, soon other newspapers in Asia were repeating the inaccurate Taiwanese reports. As a result, the Chinese Government, through two newspapers in Hong Kong known to be directed by Beijing—Ming Pao and Wen Wei Po—began to publish articles denying—correctly of course—that Jiang had made the statement attributed to him by me as reported by Taiwan's press.

I became aware of the confusion when I returned to Washington last week, and issued a press release to several Asian papers in an effort to correct the inaccuracies. Although many papers ran articles correctly reflecting

the actual comments made by President Jiang, the confusion still persists.

So, Mr. President, I come to the floor today to publicly set the record straight once and for all in the hopes of removing the last vestiges of confusion. I did not travel to Taipei to deliver a specific message from the PRC to Taiwan; I simply reported to the Taiwan Government the details of my conversation with President Jiang. In that conversation, President Jiang said, "When the wind blows through the pavilion, it means the rains will come. But in this case, I think the rains are over"—no more, no less. I hope this will lay the issue to rest.

#### THE PASSING OF COMMERCE SECRETARY RON BROWN

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to note the passing of our Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown, in a plane crash outside Dubrovnik, Bosnia. This tragic accident took with it a vast amount of talent and expertise in the persons of numerous American business people, and specifically in the person of Secretary Brown. A dedicated member of his party and this administration, Secretary Brown fought hard for the ideals and programs in which he believed. His commitment to the Commerce Department he led was shown by his willingness to brave the dangers of Bosnia, business leaders in tow, in pursuit of opportunities to help rebuild that war-torn country.

Secretary Brown also was a committed family man, and I know that his death is a great loss to his wife, his family, his friends, and his neighbors. I extend my condolences to his family in particular and hope that they can find solace in the knowledge of God's grace and in memories of the life they had with Ron Brown.

#### COMMEMORATING SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RON BROWN

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is always painful when death comes too soon. It is even more so when the circumstances are so overwhelmingly dramatic and tragic as the airplane crash in Bosnia that took the life of our Nation's Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, and 34 others.

Ron Brown was a dear and personal friend. His loss was compounded by my personal friendship with four other people who died that day. The shock of it still resonates.

His family, and the families of the others who died with him in the service of their country feel the pain most directly. There is no substitute for the love and the loss of a husband, a father, and relative. I want to offer them my sincere condolences and prayers at this sad time.

His colleagues in the Government and in the private sector will miss him and his leadership. Ron Brown not only energized the Democratic Party, but the Department of Commerce as well.