

our scattershot efforts to focus on this problem.

The legislation I sponsored with Senators LUGAR and DOMENICI contained a key section on domestic preparedness. We provided the authority and funding to begin to establish special chemical and biological emergency response teams and to train local officials. We also included a provision to improve coordination of all the relevant agencies and departments by establishing a special coordinator at the White House. The Coordinator would oversee the Government's nonproliferation, counterproliferation, counterterrorism, intelligence, and law enforcement activities that are directly relevant to this problem, but are spread far and wide throughout the various departments, and pull them together in a coherent policy.

The change in the nature of the threat requires a change in the way we organize our resources to provide for our defense. We should be willing to rethink and reshape the cold war bureaucracy and adjust our institutions to respond dynamically to a dynamic threat. We will need new doctrine and innovative technologies, improved intelligence and law enforcement, and cooperation with foreign governments to address this threat. The three-pronged strategy I have described is within our reach and within our budget. Of course we will need to shift priorities and more funding will be required. But the threat of terrorist attack on American cities involving radiological, chemical, biological or nuclear weapons has reached a point where a new effort is required. We should not wait to take action in the wake of an incident. This is a clear and present danger that requires a timely response.●

RETIREMENT OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL CHARLES A. BOWSHER

● Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, next Monday the Comptroller General of the United States, Charles A. Bowshe, will retire after 15 years in that position. At the time of his appointment in 1981, President Reagan said "this is one of the most important appointments that I shall make as President, adding that "it's obvious that in this post, a strong and effective leader can have an enduring impact on our political institutions." As chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Bowshe and his able staff as they assist the Congress in its oversight function. I believe his efforts have made an enduring impact on our Government, making it more responsible, efficient and accountable to our citizens.

During his tenure, Mr. Bowshe has overseen a tremendous growth in the amount of reports produced by GAO as well as the amount of official testimony given to Congressional commit-

tees. GAO is now producing over 1,000 reports per year, and provides expert testimony before congressional committees over 300 times per year, doubling their productivity since 1983. Despite reductions of 25 percent in their audit and staffing budget since fiscal year 1992, Mr. Bowshe made sure the quality of GAO's report and services remained uncompromised.

Under their mandate to evaluate and audit all Government programs and activities, GAO has consistently produced reports that are on the cutting edge of research, analysis, and investigation. Mr. Bowshe continually pressed for strengthened and revised budget and accounting systems. As a result of GAO's recommendations, over \$100 billion in savings and benefits have been realized through budget reductions, cost avoidances, appropriations deferrals, and revenue enhancements.

As chairman and ranking member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I came to rely on the work produced by GAO through their high risk series. These reports documented programs where the potential for billions of dollars in waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement existed. Their expertise in identifying problem areas didn't end here. Through their work for the subcommittee, they identified innumerable areas for improvement. In the last few years alone, their work for the subcommittee has resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in documented savings to the Federal Government.

In the Armed Services Committee, we relied on GAO's work on many occasions, especially in areas such as financial management and acquisition policy, and on their investigative abilities in cases where the committee needed to find out exactly what the facts were. GAO's fine work under Mr. Bowshe's leadership goes well beyond measurable cost savings. Although the benefits are less quantifiable than dollar savings, they are just as significant. Their work has repeatedly alerted Congress and the executive branch to weaknesses in Federal regulations, law enforcement, and issues related to our Armed Forces. Some examples include:

Identifying problems in requirements for reporting currency transactions at banks and other financial institutions to strengthen the ability to detect money laundering to prevent billions of dollars of drug and criminal proceeds to escape taxation, forfeiture and seizure;

Highlighting the shortcomings of State insurance regulation of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans that exposed thousands of subscribers to loss of health care benefits through insurer default;

Identifying differences and weaknesses in state insurance regulations that permit fraudulent insurance schemes to sell worthless policies to unsuspecting consumers;

Identifying loopholes in Department of Education procedures that regulate

the Federal Student Loan and Pell Grant Programs to protect the quality of postsecondary education; and

Prodding the Defense Department to improve its troubled financial management systems, providing continued oversight of DOD's progress, and continuing to press for further improvements in DOD's oversight of the Defense business operations fund and other systems required to ensure that the taxpayer's money has been correctly accounted for.

Mr. Bowshe has also demonstrated great vision as our Government prepares for the next millennium. Under his leadership, GAO greatly enhanced its focus on issues related to information management and technology, and they have produced cutting edge analysis of the challenges our Government will face in the information age. GAO recently issued a report on the extent to which Defense computer systems are being attacked, the actual and potential damage to its information and systems, and the challenges the Defense Department is facing in securing its sensitive but unclassified information systems. This report and their resulting testimony before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations was some of the most professional and skillful I have seen.

This Congress and the American people owe a great debt to Charles Bowshe for his fine work. I congratulate him on his 15 years of service, and wish him well in his future endeavors.●

EXPLANATION OF VOTES ON THE SENATE ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, recently, the Senate passed the conference report to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. I would like to take a moment to comment on the amendments to the original bill that was passed out of this Chamber.

The first vote during consideration of this act was on a McCain amendment to eliminate the advanced light water reactor [ALWR] program. Started in 1993, the ALWR represents a joint commitment by Government and industry to develop a new generation of standardized, advanced reactors. I opposed the McCain amendment for several reasons: First, 1997 is the final year of a 5-year program that, once complete, will result in an estimated \$1 billion in U.S. revenue. Congress originally agreed to fund this program for 5 years, and it was important that this commitment be upheld. Perhaps more importantly, the committee estimated that the cost to eliminate the program was actually greater than the 1997 funding amount. Finally, once complete, a major portion of the DOE contributions to this project will be repaid as royalties from the sale of the powerplants. A bipartisan majority of Senators agreed with me and voted to fund the ALWR in its final year on a 53-to-45 vote.