

As a former teacher myself, I commend her outstanding accomplishment and well-deserved honor.

Continental Cablevision designed the Educator Award program in 1989 to encourage teachers to use Cable in the Classroom, a cable industry initiative which provides schools with free cable connections and access to more than 500 hours of commercial-free educational programming each month. Jane was chosen for this distinguished honor from among educators in all of the communities that Continental Cablevision serves in New Hampshire.

Under the direction of Jane, Exeter elementary students, teachers and their work are showcased in "Booktalk," an ambitious weekly cable TV program. The program encourages students to read and invites families to participate in activities related to their children's reading. It also raises community awareness about the elementary curriculum. Jane and an Australian crocodile puppet explore one curriculum theme each week and feature a reading by teachers, students or guests, ideas for families to further pursue the learning theme, and many creative presentations.

New Hampshire has always been fortunate to have many talented teachers, but Jane McCaffery is certainly a role model among the teachers of the Granite State. I am proud of her commitment to education and congratulate her superb achievement. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

[At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.]

#### SALEM COUNTY EDUCATION ANNIVERSARIES

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Salem County School District on a number of notable anniversaries. The year 1997 marks the 40th anniversary of the district, the 25th anniversary of the initiation of occupational, technical and vocational programs and services to secondary students and the 15th anniversary of the operation of the New Jersey Regional Day School at Mannington for the Department of Education.

Mr. President, these anniversaries are especially significant because education is the key that will open the door to the future for our children. By the year 2000, 60 percent of all new jobs in America will require advanced technical skills. The industrial age has given way to the information age and, more than ever before, students need a quality education if they are going to be able to compete.

But a quality education doesn't only benefit the individual, it also benefits our Nation. If our firms and factories are to find the educated workers they need, and if these same firms are to remain competitive in the global marketplace, then our students must receive the necessary training and skills. Our economic future depends on it.

Mr. President, 300 years ago this year, the colony of Massachusetts passed the very first American education law. It required that every town of at least 50 people hire a teacher of reading and writing. Those first colonists, huddled in their tiny villages along the Atlantic coast, understood

the importance of education for their children and for their communities. And ever since, making ourselves the best educated Nation on Earth has always been the very essence of our American dream. The work of the Salem County School District, and the Salem County Vocational Technical Schools, is helping to ensure that this particular American dream remains an American reality.

To the students of Salem County, I say don't ever forget that there's always more to be learned, always more to be seen, always more to be explored. And to the Salem County Board of Education, the Salem County School District, and the Salem County Vocational Technical Schools, I say congratulations and continue your fine work.●

#### CONGRESSIONAL PENSION DISCLOSURE ACT

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in order to offer my support for the Congressional Pension Disclosure Act of 1997.

This bill will require that detailed information about the pension of every Member of Congress be published twice a year. These facts—how much has been contributed to a pension plan, how much is to be received in retirement, and acquired Federal retirement benefits—should be public information.

Montanans, as well as those in every other State, deserve the right to know how public funds are being spent. The disclosure of pension contributions and benefits will allow Montanans to judge whether or not the amounts are fair and just. Taxpayers will be able to make fully informed decisions about the kind of job we representatives are doing in abiding the will of the people and keeping Government spending under control.

The Congressional Pension Disclosure Act will make facts readily available to anyone who wants them. Perception that Congress operates in secrecy would be eliminated and the people of Montana would know that their representatives have nothing to hide. Simply said, by disclosing the size of our pensions, we in Congress will make a step in the right direction toward restoring faith in government by the American people.

I commend Senator ABRAHAM for drafting this meaningful legislation, and I am proud to have signed on as a cosponsor of S. 269.●

#### SANCTIONS AGAINST BURMA

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. I commend the President for his decision to invoke investment sanctions on Burma, in accordance with section 570 of Public Law 104-208. The President deserves praise for his action. Conditions in Burma remain grim and warrant this limited measure.

Perhaps no one is more deserving of praise than the Senator from Kentucky, Senator MCCONNELL. He and I have stood together in support of the people of Burma for many years now and I congratulate him for his steadfast efforts to assist in achieving a democratic transition in Burma.

Burma is a democracy denied. It is a country with a democratic past. With our help it can have a democratic fu-

ture. We find ourselves at a point in history where numerous nations are struggling to build democratic governments. It is not always an easy process. Those who are involved in such transitions watch for America's response to situations such as we find in Burma, where a military junta prevents the implementation of a democratic election. Let us be clear. This is not only about human rights and trade. This is about our commitment to democracy.

There are those who argue that constructive engagement is the only way to effect change in a country. Constructive engagement is a euphemism for doing business with thugs. Foreign investment in Burma provides hard currency for the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]. Most U.S. companies refuse to support such a regime through foreign investment. Amoco, Levi Strauss, Liz Claiborne, Macy's, Eddie Bauer, Columbia Sportswear, Oshkosh B'Gosh, Pepsi, Apple Computer, and many other companies already have cut business ties with Burma. I commend the President for his action which supports the decisions of these responsible companies.

Finally, I would note that this is not an end to our efforts in Burma, but a beginning. Strong bilateral pressure needs to be supplemented with multilateral action. I call on other nations which share our concern for the people of Burma to join us. Most importantly, the SLORC should know that we will remain vigilant and continue to defend the rights of Burmese democracy leaders.●

#### SLOVAKIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to call to my colleagues' attention human rights developments in Slovakia. These developments point Slovakia in the opposite direction from the road their neighbors have been traveling. Their neighbors accept western values and seek integration into western institutions, developments leading to individual freedom, political democracy, and economic prosperity in a free market system. In stark contrast, Slovakia is not in compliance with some important Helsinki process commitments and is showing signs of regression toward authoritarian, if not totalitarian relations between the state and its citizens.

This country, which showed so much promise upon gaining independence in 1993, has failed to press ahead with vitally needed democratic reforms, in contrast with so many other countries in the region, including other newly independent countries. While the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland have worked hard to qualify for EU membership and NATO accession, Slovakia has lagged behind. While states like Lithuania and Slovenia have emerged from repressive empires to bring prosperity and hope to their peoples, Slovakia has not. Even Romania, which has struggled profoundly with the transition from totalitarianism, has managed to undertake significant reforms in the past few months.

From the outset, members of the Helsinki Commission have supported the