

my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes for continued success to the children, coaches, parents, officials, staff, and sponsors of the Northeast Peanut League.●

#### THE POLITICS OF THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I spoke on Tuesday of this week about recent findings on the technological dimension of the year 2000 computer problem. I rise today to warn of the yet unseen political dimension of the problem.

Newsweek's June 2d cover story, "The Day the World Shuts Down," offered a telling scenario in which Vice President GORE, while campaigning for President in 2000, spends all of his time trying to justify why he hadn't addressed this issue. To wit: "imagine Al Gore's spending the entire election campaign explaining why he didn't foresee the crisis."

Vice President GORE is not alone here. Imagine 4 to 500 Congressmen doing the same. Come 2000, each of us will be held accountable if we have failed to deal effectively with the "Y2K" problem. Not a single Member of Congress right now, excepting those who can successfully pass the blame, will be absolved. Both parties will face a wholesale clearing of the decks. The deluge of blame will occur in the legal community, as well. Newsweek cited a conservative estimate of 1 trillion dollars worth of litigation resulting from this crisis—more than three times the yearly cost of all civil litigation in the United States.

Make no mistake, almost all experts agree there will be no "silver bullet" fix. Correcting this problem is labor intensive and very time consuming. Millions of lines of computer code have to be reviewed and changed—in many computer languages so outdated they are foreign to younger programmers. And as Newsweek stated, the bug "affects everything from ATM's to weapons systems. Virtually every government, State, and municipality, as well as every large, midsize, and small business in the world, is going to deal with this—in fact, if they haven't started already its just about too late."

If American families are overtaxed by the IRS, improperly charged by their creditors, denied Social Security benefits, and faced with a constantly malfunctioning civil infrastructure, the blame will fall squarely on the shoulders of their Representatives in Washington.

As Samuel Johnson observed, the prospect of hanging concentrates the mind. This prospect—the political repercussions—could finally get us up and running. We are not now. I have a first day bill, S. 22, creating a joint commission to take on the task as a national emergency. It is just that. No movement on my bill thus far. At this rate be ready to be out of a job in 2001.●

#### THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF COURTNEY WHEELER

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Courtney Wheeler of Beckley, WV, who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 29, 1997.

Courtney Wheeler was born in 1897 in Summers County, WV, the oldest of 13 children born to Thomas Joseph and Rosa Belle Berkley. She married her husband, Roy Wheeler in 1913 and the two of them had six children before he passed away in 1936. Courtney has shown tremendous courage in life in dealing with the loss of her husband at an early age and the loss of four of her children. She has been an inspiration to all who know her on how to deal with life's tragedies in a strong and graceful manner.

In addition to her six children, Courtney Wheeler has a total of 94 descendants. She has 22 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, 29 great-great grandchildren and 1 great-great-great grandchild. She has definitely been blessed with a large and loving family.

Throughout her life, Courtney has been a loving and caring person to her family and friends. She has always maintained a cheerful spirit and has been an example to all. She has been an avid gardener of both flowers and vegetables her entire life, and is known far and wide for her cooking skills. I encourage my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Courtney Wheeler on this milestone birthday.

#### THE FISCAL YEAR 1997 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION CONFERENCE REPORT AND THE FISCAL YEAR 1998 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE REPORT

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I am entering this statement into the RECORD because I am unable to return to Washington for the votes on the fiscal year 1998 supplemental appropriation conference report and the fiscal year 1998 budget resolution conference report due to my son's out-of-town college graduation today. Had I been there, I would have voted for the budget resolution and against the supplemental appropriation because of the automatic continuing resolution and other extraneous provisions in the bill.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALICE LIEBERMAN

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to pay tribute to Alice Lieberman, the mother of my former executive secretary Sylvia Nolde. Alice Lieberman is a woman of grace and strength and a role model for all ages. In testament of her service to her community and her positive impact on the youth of our Nation, I am submitting "A Senior Portrait", written by Ms. Abby Altshul. The following was written by Abby for her essay on her college admissions application to Cornell University, where she was accepted.

#### A SENIOR PORTRAIT

With Congress pushing for cuts in Medicare and the baby boomers struggling to stay young, irreverence for old age seems to be at an all time high. Fortunately, a few teenagers, who have at one point lived in Charlottesville, Virginia still hold great respect for their elders. The reason for this is Alice Lieberman, an 85-year-old Jewish grandmother who has become the matriarch for the city's Jewish community. These teens fondly remember chicken dinners at her house and Friday night services by her side at congregation Beth Israel. She had been a role model as a long-time active member of Hadassah (a Jewish women's organization), even assuming the presidency at the age of eighty. Her fifty plus year marriage to Myer Lieberman and commitment to her family has been an inspiration in this age of high divorce rates and dysfunctional families. Her care for her husband when he went to a nursing home led the way to her volunteer work at Cedars Nursing Home. Alice even influenced a girl named Abby to join her and work at the Cedars for her bat mitzvah community service project and to continue to visit the elderly friends they had made after the bat mitzvah. Alice inherited this sense of duty from her mother and passed it on to her two daughters, a teacher and a congressional aide, who continue to volunteer while retired.

For many of her "young friends" it became a threat rather than a chore to go to synagogue on Friday night and sit quietly next to her. She transmitted the comfort and tranquility she received from the prayers to Abby and anyone else who was lucky enough to be seated beside her. One of Abby's earliest memories is of sitting in services and drawing a picture of her best friend, Alice, who sat next to her. Alice still proudly displays the drawing next to Abby's senior photo in her dining room. Ever since Abby moved away two years ago, services haven't been as meaningful or enjoyable without Alice. Her devotion is an inspiration to many Jews especially the young people whom she effects.

The vitality Alice displays brings a whole new meaning to the phrase "aging gracefully." She goes everywhere and does everything on her own without fear, even after a fall a few years ago that resulted in a broken hip and landed her in a nursing home for a few weeks. She entertains often and continues to be an important part of Hadassah as head of their ongoing and most successful fundraiser. Some people use their golden years to relax and let the world serve them, but for Alice Lieberman it is a chance to imbue the next generation with motivation.●

#### RURAL DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1997

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today Senator MURKOWSKI and I introduced a bill called the Rural Telemedicine Demonstration Act of 1997.

As the Senate knows, Senator MURKOWSKI and I represent States where a good number of our constituents live in rural areas. Individuals living in States like Montana often live in counties that are underserved by specialty health care providers.

Due to new technology made possible by advances in fiber optics, it is now easier for rural citizens to be seen by specialty health care providers.

Using this technology, a person living in Culbertson, MT, who would normally drive 300 miles for specialty