

THE RECOVERY NETWORK

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, a California company has embarked on an effort that I believe demonstrates how entrepreneurship and public service can go hand in hand.

The Recovery Network is a new nationwide cable television program dedicated to helping people recover from the devastating disease of addiction. This Santa Monica-based network is the first of its kind and the only broadcast network in the world devoted entirely to substance abuse recovery and prevention.

It is estimated that more than 130 million Americans suffer from or are affected by alcoholism, drug abuse, eating disorders, depression, gambling and other addictions. The Recovery Network offers a lifeline of help to millions of those in need offering group recovery sessions, information on 12-step recovery programs, a 24-hour 800-number help line, discussion shows designed for children of alcoholics and parents with drug abuse problems, and information shows on the pharmacological effects of alcohol and other addictive substances. Recovery Network serves not only those in need of help, but also the friends, families, teachers, and professionals seeking guidance and tools to effect change.

Another important part of the Recovery Network is the localized programming effort. "Neighborhood Recovery" enables local community groups to offer their services through cable programming. Organizations like Californians for Drug-Free Youth, and the Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community can reach out to people in their specific area offering information on local meetings and other resources.

I believe this type of public service programming is exactly what Congress envisioned when it passed the Cable Communications Act in 1984, " * * * to provide the widest possible diversity of information sources and service to the public" and " * * * assure that cable systems are responsive to the needs and interest of the local community."

Community cable became a permanent fixture on the American landscape in 1948. Its purpose was to service remote communities with a master antenna providing a clear television broadcast signal. Three years later, 70 cable systems services 14,000 homes nationally. Since then, cable television has become a vital full-service link to citizens in every city and town in the United States, serving more than 67 million households nationwide.

People suffering from alcohol and drug addiction have found the Recovery Network there to help when they were most in need:

One young couple from Ohio who was traveling and struggling to maintain their sobriety early in recovery happened upon the Recovery Network on their hotel television. They said " * * * we turned you on unknowingly, and it was like an AA meeting right in our

hotel room. It really helped us refocus on what is important, and that is AA and staying sober."

An Indiana viewer wrote "I just want to say thank you for the programs and the light at the end of the tunnel that they showed me."

A Michigan man wrote "Thank you for making such a big difference in my life."

A California woman wrote "When I can't make a meeting, I know you're there for me."

Recovery Network has become a leader in delivering effective programming which provides solutions to these problems in the privacy of the home and in offering positive lifestyle choices as an alternative.

The Recovery Network is supported by every major drug abuse prevention and recovery organization in the Nation, including the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the National Drug Prevention League, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors and the National Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education.

Mr. President, I am proud that the Recovery Network is a product of the State of California and I wish them much success in their endeavor. •

TRIBUTE TO DONN TIBBETTS,
UNION LEADER STATE HOUSE
BUREAU CHIEF, ON HIS RETIREMENT

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. New Hampshire's media corps will suffer a great loss in January 1998 when Donn Tibbetts steps down after 25 years as The Union Leader newspaper's Concord, New Hampshire Bureau Chief. Donn is a New Hampshire institution, and will be missed by all of us who call him our friend.

Donn's career in journalism has spanned nearly 50 years—first as a broadcaster and then, since April 3, 1972, as a reporter and columnist for the Loeb newspapers. He has covered the often-colorful politics of the Granite State, writing the well-known "Under the State House Dome" column. As Dean of the State House press corps, he has been a leader in chronicling presidential primaries, state elections, nine governors, and the State Legislature—the largest in the nation. He has traveled to national conventions for the Democrat and Republican parties, interviewed presidents, and even sat down to talk with me on many occasions! My interviews with Donn always left us sharing a laugh—and the resulting stories were always fair, thorough, and forthright, as is always Donn's style.

Donn's knowledge and expertise about New Hampshire politics is second to none. He is the author of "The Closest U.S. Senate Race in History," a book about the hotly contested, historic election for New Hampshire's U.S. Senate seat in 1974 between John Durkin and Louis Wyman—an election

that was won by one vote, with a subsequent second election being held the following year.

Donn's accomplishments—from sports disk jockey to television host to political columnist—have brought him many accolades from distinguished individuals across the country. The late William Loeb, frank publisher of the Union Leader, said Donn is "a man of great integrity." Former New Hampshire Governor John Sununu said of Donn: "Nobody is fairer and nobody is more of a credit to their profession than Donn. . ."

Donn is originally from Manchester, and then went on to attend Lasalle Military Academy in Long Island, and the University of New Hampshire. He served 28 years in the military and the reserves with the same honor and distinction he has brought to his career as a journalist. He has been a community and civic leader, as well as a dedicated husband, father and grandfather.

Retirement is a time of reflection, and I know that Donn will spend his retirement years enjoying the memories of his rich and fulfilling career. I have been told that he is leaving for Corpus Christi, Texas the day after he retires, to spend time traveling with his wife, Janie, and visiting his seven grandchildren and twin great-granddaughters.

Donn, I wish you all the best for a wonderful retirement. You are a man of character, commitment and dignity. We will all miss you. •

IMF AND US FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern about the current financial crisis in Indonesia and the decision of the United States and the international financial community to provide bailout assistance.

As you know, Mr. President, the International Monetary Fund announced on October 31 that it was putting together a \$23 billion aid package for Jakarta. This money will allow Indonesia to defend its currency, which has depreciated severely in the last few months. The IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Indonesian government will together provide this \$23 billion in financing.

In addition to the IMF package, several countries, including the United States, are offering "second-line" loan guarantees that Indonesia can use if needed. The Administration has guaranteed a \$3 billion loan to Indonesia as part of the Treasury Department's exchange stabilization fund. This fund is the same one used to loan \$20 billion to Mexico during the peso crisis of 1994 and 1995.

Mr. President, I understand that the Administration hopes the \$23 billion IMF financing will be enough for Indonesia to overcome the present crisis and that Jakarta will not need to draw on the \$3 billion "second-line" loan from the United States. Nevertheless,

American taxpayer money is being put on the line both through the direct loan guarantee and indirectly through the US contributions to the IMF, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

While there is clearly a need to help avoid a financial collapse in Indonesia that could spill over into other areas of Asia and even to the United States, the US taxpayer has a right to know what kind of government they are helping to support.

Mr. President, many of Indonesia's present economic problems are the result of rampant corruption and nepotism in the country. Indonesia is ruled by a single man, President Suharto, and his relatives and friends traditionally enjoy many business perks. Using their connections, this group has engaged in highly risky and speculative business deals that have exacerbated the present financial crisis. The Financial Times reports that of the 16 insolvent banks that Indonesia has been forced to close since last week, three are owned by Suharto's children, relatives, or close business associates. The link between the financial crisis and Indonesia's present political system, where power rests in the hands of Suharto's inner circle, is inescapable.

The IMF has placed tough economic conditions on the \$23 billion. To qualify for this funding, Indonesia must enact serious financial reforms, dismantle monopolies, and liberalize its trading regime. The IMF has also asked for greater transparency in Indonesia's business and financial markets. But I believe that the IMF and the United States should use the opportunity of this bailout to make all assistance conditional on Indonesia undertaking specific and verifiable measures to ensure that a newly structured system in Indonesia will be free from corruption and graft.

In addition, I strongly feel that Indonesia's need for financial support gives the world community leverage to ask for long-needed political reforms. So long as Indonesia is run by a corrupt elite, its economy will never reach its full potential. The present authoritarian system has bred political instability that will ultimately limit Indonesia's economic potential. I read with alarm about the many riots and hundreds of deaths that occurred in Indonesia during the May elections. This is the result of a system that works largely for the benefit of President Suharto and his family.

Finally, I am concerned about the role of the military in Indonesia, which has sustained a brutal occupation of East Timor for more than 20 years. Press reports indicate that Indonesia maintains more than 20,000 armed troops in East Timor. Just because President Suharto's government has boosted the economy in recent years does not mean it has the right to murder and torture Indonesians and East Timorese. Economic success does not excuse you from answering to your own citizens.

Political tension in Indonesia will only subside after President Suharto initiates real democratic change and, for example, allows all parties to compete equally in the political process. Indonesian authorities try to argue that greater democracy will lead to instability which in turn will impede economic development. But, Mr. President, clearly the problem in Indonesia is not too much democracy, but too little.

Mr. President, I urge the administration to use the influence it has in the IMF and the other international financial institutions to insure that this \$23 billion package contains demands for real anti-corruption and political reform measures. At the very least, such conditions must be placed on the \$3 billion direct loan the US has offered.

These issues—of transparency, of human rights, and of good governance—are too important for the United States to ignore as we bail Indonesia out of this mess.●

DELAY OF DR. DAVID SATCHER'S CONFIRMATION AS SURGEON GENERAL AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to express my concern at the delay in the vote on the nomination of David Satcher to be Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health. I understand that some Senators have placed holds on the nomination.

Dr. Satcher is an excellent choice for these positions. He is a respected family doctor, respected scholar, and respected public health leader. For the past 4 years, he has ably led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the agency responsible for protecting the Nation's health and preventing disease, injury, and premature death.

In 1992, under Dr. Satcher's leadership, CDC developed and implemented a very successful childhood immunization initiative. Before the initiative, only a little more than half the Nation's children—55 percent—were immunized. Today, the figure is 78 percent, and vaccine-preventable childhood diseases are now at record lows.

Dr. Satcher has also led CDC efforts to deal more effectively with infectious diseases and food-borne illnesses. We rely heavily on CDC to provide the rapid response needed to combat outbreaks of disease and protect public safety. Under Dr. Satcher, CDC is implementing a new strategy against infectious diseases and a new early warning system to deal with food-borne illnesses.

Prior to his appointment to CDC, Dr. Satcher was president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, the Nation's largest private historically black institution for educating health care professionals and biomedical researchers. He previously served as professor and chairman of the Department of Community Medicine and Family Practice

at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. He also has been a faculty member at the UCLA School of Medicine and the King/Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles, and interim dean of the Drew Postgraduate Medical School.

Dr. Satcher's range of skills and experience and his strong commitment to improving public health make him extremely well qualified to be the country's principal official on health care and health policy issues—America's Doctor. He's an excellent choice to be Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health.

Dr. Satcher's nomination has received broad bipartisan support. He's been endorsed by a large number of health provider groups, including the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, numerous academic health centers, and public health organizations.

Despite these endorsements, a few detractors have emerged and I want to take a few moments to address their concerns.

Some colleagues have questioned Dr. Satcher's views on abortion. This was not an issue at his confirmation hearing, but some Senators are using the controversial and unconstitutional "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act" to attack his credibility.

Dr. Satcher believes—as do most Americans—that abortions should be safe, legal, and rare. His position reflects 25 years of medical experience and is consistent with Supreme Court decisions.

In fact, Dr. Satcher supports a ban on late-term abortions. But he shares President Clinton's view that "if there are risks for severe health consequences for the mother, then the decision [to have an abortion] should not be made by the government, but by the woman in conjunction with her family and physician."

Dr. Satcher's position on this issue is shared by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Women's Association, the American Nurses Association, and the American Public Health Association.

Some in the Republican leadership have raised this issue in an attempt to defeat an outstanding nominee. Instead of resolving the late-term abortion issue months ago, they would rather play politics with Dr. Satcher's nomination and the lives and health of American women.

The nation faces significant public health challenges. Our national infant mortality rate is at a record low, but it is still higher than that of many countries. Despite recent declines in the teenage birth rate, the U.S. rate is still the highest in the industrial world.

Similarly, in the case of childhood immunization, the rate nationwide may be the highest ever, but in many communities, less than half of 2-year-olds are adequately immunized.

The country needs a medical leader whom people can trust to advise them