

I offered an amendment to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund which could be used to fund legislation designed to improve the affordability, availability and quality of child care, and to support families' choices in caring for their children. I was disappointed, obviously, when my amendment was defeated, but was pleased that the amendment had the support of fifty of my colleagues.

The resolution also reduces funding for the Administration's education priorities by \$2 billion, and as a result, about 450,000 students could be denied safe after-school care in 1999, some 30,000 new children could be denied access to the Head Start program, and 6,500 middle schools would not have drug and violence prevention coordinators. And yet, while Republican budget increases funding above the President's request for Impact Aid, Special Education, and the title VI block grant, these increases come at the expense of many other priorities that also strengthen our commitment to children and education.

Mr. President, this budget as a whole ill-serves children and families, and that is why I was pleased to support the Democratic alternative budget offered by Senator LAUTENBERG. The Democratic alternative would strengthen our commitment to our priorities by providing funding for key initiatives such as hiring an additional 100,000 teachers, creating more after-school programs, and doubling the number of children who receive child care assistance. Further, the Democratic alternative moves us toward our goal of one million children in Head Start by 2002, doubles the number of children in early Head Start, and places up to 500,000 children in after school learning centers.

In addition, Mr. President, the Democratic alternative maintains our commitment to other Democratic priorities such as cleaning up the environment and investing in our transportation infrastructure. Moreover, it would expand Medicare coverage to Americans ages 55-65. And not least, Mr. President, the Democratic alternative strengthens Social Security by reserving the entire unified budget surplus, while maintaining strict fiscal discipline by meeting the discretionary caps in all years.

I regret, Mr. President, that the Democratic alternative was defeated. And I regret that the resolution before us today is not one that I, in good conscience, can support. In my view, the Republican budget shortchanges America's working families. I am, however, hopeful that as we move forward in the budget process, we will craft legislation that focuses on priorities like child care, education, health care, and the environment. Finally, Mr. President, in our efforts to craft a budget that targets the needs of working families, it is imperative that we remain vigilant in our efforts to maintain fiscal responsibility. ●

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD A. SEARFOSS, RICHARD M. LINNEHAN AND JAY CLARK BUCKEY

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Commander Richard A. Searfoss, mission specialist Richard M. Linnehan and payload specialist Jay Clark Buckey for their participation in the April 16, 1998, Neurolab mission STS-90. These men are on the forefront of science, bravely pioneering the new frontier of space in an effort to investigate the effects of weightlessness on the brain, central nervous system, and sensory organs.

After graduating from Portsmouth Senior High School in New Hampshire, Rick Searfoss attended the United States Air Force Academy where he was awarded the Harmon, Fairchild, Price and Tober Awards as the top overall, academic, engineering and aeronautical engineering graduate in the Class of 1978. When Commander Searfoss was selected for the astronaut program, he was a flight instructor at the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School where he was named the Tactical Air Command F-111 Instructor Pilot of the Year in 1985. Having logged over 4200 hours flying time in 56 different types of aircraft, there can be no doubt about Commander Searfoss' courage or ability.

Richard M. Linnehan, a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, is a distinguished astronaut and veterinarian. After entering into private veterinary practice and further study of animal medicine and comparative pathology, Dr. Linnehan was commissioned as a Captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. He served as chief clinical veterinarian for the Navy's Marine Mammal Project at the Naval Ocean Systems Center in San Diego. Dr. Linnehan has been at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) since 1992, where he has worked in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory and in the Astronaut Office Mission Development Branch. He was a member of the international crew of the STS-78 mission in 1996, the longest space shuttle flight to date.

Jay Clark Buckey, currently a NASA payload specialist and Associate Professor of Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire, has a distinguished record in aerospace medicine. Dr. Buckey has over twenty publications to his credit in the areas of space physiology, cardiovascular regulation and echocardiographic techniques. He is a former executive board member of the American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology, as well as a member of the Aerospace Medicine Association and American College of Physicians. His accomplishments at NASA include performing as co-investigator and project manager for the Spacelab Life Sciences-1 experiment "Cardiovascular Adaptation to Zero-Gravity," for which he received

two NASA Certificates of Recognition for software developed.

WMUR-TV of Manchester and the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium of Concord are cooperating to offer a live interactive question-and-answer session with the New Hampshire astronauts on April 24, 1998, that will be shown in the Planetarium and relayed to students in the astronauts' hometowns of Portsmouth, Pelham and Hanover. Students will beam questions up to the astronauts and have the answers beamed back to them, giving the students a window into life aboard the space shuttle and an opportunity to speak with real live heroes.

Risking their own lives to determine the effects of space travel, these men exhibit bravery that should inspire us all. Mr. President, I want to congratulate Commander Richard A. Searfoss, mission specialist Richard M. Linnehan, and payload specialist Jay Clark Buckey for their outstanding work. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Senate. ●

#### THE CCC's REBUILDING OF AMERICA

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps.

In March 1933, there were approximately 13,689,000 Americans unemployed. Millions were standing in bread lines, or desperately pleading with community volunteer organizations for help. Thousands were making homes out of abandoned farm buildings, or just roaming around the land with no home at all.

At this time, my home state of Georgia had already known "depression" for some time. An economic recession had begun in Georgia 10 years before the stock market crashed in 1929. Farmers had already faced a century of troubles including erosion problems, and a boll weevil epidemic that wiped out cotton crops across the state.

Who would have thought that Georgians' great hope would come in the form of a New Yorker, stricken by polio, who had sought out the healing Warm Springs of Georgia nearly ten years earlier. It was the frequent Georgia visitor President Franklin D. Roosevelt who looked out on America and said he saw "one third of a nation ill-clad, ill-housed and ill-nourished." In response, he offered the people of a suffering nation a sweeping bundle of proposals—a New Deal.

A cornerstone of FDR's initiative was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which was signed into law on April 5, 1933.

Conceived as an employment catalyst for young men, Roosevelt said his idea was "to create a civilian conservation corps, to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, but confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control and similar projects."

By the summer of 1933, the CCC had more than 300,000 young men, ages 18 to 24, in camps across the country prepared to embark on what would be the largest public works and job creation project this country has ever known. In a radio address that summer, President Roosevelt called on the CCC to be the vanguard of the new spirit of the American future—a spirit of responsibility and opportunity.

My father was one of the young men who heard that call. A year later, in the summer of 1934, my father was a "CCC boy" based in a Clayton County camp as a truck driver, running supplies to camps in North Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. The CCC boys earned \$30 per month running supplies like my father, planting trees, building roads and trails, making dams and walls and shelters.

Roosevelt's Corps was dedicated to several purposes. First, FDR created the CCC to relieve the massive unemployment problem our nation was facing. Second, FDR recognized the real work the CCC could do—rebuilding the country's depleted resources of forest and soil—would be at least as vital a purpose as job creation.

The third objective of the CCC, whose significance has perhaps become even more apparent as years have passed, was generally envisioned by FDR in his 1933 message to Congress:

More important, however, than material gains, will be the moral and spiritual value of such work. We can take a vast army of the unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced idleness brings to spiritual and moral stability.

In other words, in a nearly inadvertent way, the CCC had the effect of not only rebuilding roads, trees and dams, but also of rebuilding men. While the challenges our country faces today are vastly different than those of 1933, and the makeup of our corps of volunteers has become much more diverse than the young "CCC boys," the spirit of national service remains strong.

For example, the work of the more than 40,000 citizens now serving as part of the Corporation for National Service's AmeriCorps program is powerful proof that national service is as important now as it was for my father's generation.

A group of Georgians who recognize FDR's legacy of hope, opportunity and spirit of service are working to erect a statue honoring the Civilian Conservation Corps in Warm Springs, GA. How appropriate such a recognition would be. Roosevelt's CCC is an important piece of our nation's and our state's history, and something that should serve as an example for generations to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY BETTERMENT COMMITTEE OF MT. VERNON, MISSOURI

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous

accomplishment by the Community Betterment Committee of Mt. Vernon, Missouri. On April 23, 1998, a project that began almost 2½ years ago will be dedicated at a lighting ceremony. Lighting the Lawrence County Courthouse, once just a dream to many citizens, has now become a reality.

Through the perseverance of the Community Betterment Committee, private funds were raised to complete the project. The hard work put forth by the Mt. Vernon Community is impressive. Because of these efforts the Lawrence County Courthouse, for years to come, will be lit at night for people to enjoy.

I congratulate the Community Betterment Committee for their outstanding achievement. Additionally, I commend the Mt. Vernon community for their generosity, without which, none of this would have been possible. I wish them continued success in all future endeavors.●

#### THE TEXAS/MAINE/VERMONT COMPACT

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the Senate has just passed H.R. 629, legislation granting congressional consent to the Texas/Maine/Vermont Compact. I have often been asked why I—a senator from Minnesota—should have such a deep and abiding interest in this legislation, which appears to involve only those three states. Until this week, I had not agreed to a time limit for debate, and this held up consideration of the bill for more than year. I think I owe it to my colleagues to explain why I was insisting on a full and thorough debate, and why I think this discussion is so important.

What has troubled me from the very beginning is that this legislation would result in the dumping of low-level radioactive waste in a small, poor, majority-Latino community in rural West Texas—a town called Sierra Blanca. In this respect, the Texas/Maine/Vermont Compact is different from other Compacts the Senate has considered. We know beforehand where this waste will be dumped. The Texas legislation in 1991 identified the area where the dump will be located. The Texas Waste Authority designated the site near Sierra Blanca in 1992. A draft license was issued in 1996.

Whether we like it or not, this knowledge makes us responsible for what happens to Sierra Blanca. I'll be the first to acknowledge that this is a terrible responsibility. The fate of the people who live there ultimately rests in our hands. Their livelihoods, their community, their property, their health, their safety, and in many respects their lives, all depend on how we choose to proceed on this bill.

I believe very strongly that the Compact raises important and troubling issues of what has variously been described as "environmental justice," "environmental equity," "environmental discrimination," or "environ-

mental racism." And a diverse array of civic organizations agree with me about this. The Texas NAACP, The Sierra Club, the League of United Latin American Citizens (or "LULAC"), Greenpeace, the Bishop and the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, the House Hispanic Caucus, Friends of the Earth, and Physicians for Social Responsibility, to name just a few.

As a very basic proposition, I think we can all agree that it's wrong for poor, politically powerless, minority communities to be singled out for the siting of unwanted hazardous waste dumps. It's wrong when that happens in Sierra Blanca, and it's wrong when it happens in hundreds of other poor minority communities all across this country. I want to do whatever I can to stop it, and I don't see why every one of us should not want to do the same. I don't understand why it should be considered unusual for a senator to care about these things. On the contrary, I think it should be unusual for a senator not to care about these things.

Let me tell you something about Sierra Blanca. It's a small town in one of the poorest parts of Texas, an area with one of the highest percentages of Latino residents. The average income of people who live there is less than \$8,000. Thirty-nine percent live below the poverty line. Over 66 percent are Latino, and many of them speak only Spanish. It's a town that has already been saddled with one of the largest sewage sludge projects in the world. Every week Sierra Blanca receives 250 tons of partially treated sewage sludge from across country. And depending on what action Congress decides to take, this small town with minimal political clout may also become the national repository for low-level radioactive waste.

Supporters of the Compact would have us believe that the designation of Sierra Blanca had nothing to do with the income or ethnic characteristics of its residents. That it had nothing to do with the high percentage of Latinos in Sierra Blanca and the surrounding Hudspeth County—at least 2.6 times higher than the state average. That the percentage of people living in poverty—at least 2.1 times higher than the state average—was completely irrelevant. They would have us believe that Sierra Blanca was simply the unfortunate finalist in a rigorous and deliberate screening process that fairly considered potential sites from all over the state. That the outcome was based on science and objective criteria. I don't believe any of this is true.

Let me be clear. I'm not saying science played no role whatsoever in the process. It did. Indeed, based on the initial criteria coupled with the scientific findings, Sierra Blanca was disqualified as a potential dump site. It wasn't until politics entered the picture that Sierra Blanca was even considered.

I think its worth taking a moment to review how we get to where we are