enlarged building capability, which is the goal of planned interior upgrades, is not unreasonable in terms of cost and purpose. And S. 2260, as passed, would place the ceiling on building projects as the PTO recommends.

Two of the PTO's three unions fully support the project. National Treasury Employees Union locals 218 (representing clerical and administrative staff) and 245 (representing contract work) have endorsed the project. The third union, the American Federation of Teachers, did not endorse the project, but its delegates voted to continue talks with the PTO, which is the only union that represents the project staff. The PTO has already signed a partnership agreement supporting PTO's plans for the project. The PTO is continuing talks with the third union.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE,

Hon. JOHN W. WARNER,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR WARNER: In light of recent reports on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's (PTO) on-going procurement process to competitively acquire new, consolidated space for the PTO, I want to assure you that this procurement is based on sound principles.

These reports are focused on estimates of furniture costs mentioned in our Deva and Associates business case study. This study was undertaken to compare our present, un-consolidated space with a worst-case scenario of moving to a new, consolidated facility under the GSA prospectus.

Many of the statements cited in the Deva report are being touted as what the PTO is spending for furniture at a new facility. Nothing is farther from the truth. I personally assure you, we have never contemplated nor will we spend $250 for a shower curtain, $750 for a crib, or $1,000 for a coat rack. I agree that some of these furniture estimates are too high even for a worst-case scenario. However, it must be kept in mind that even with these extremely high estimates, this procurement project still shows savings of at least $7 million. No one is disputing this fact.

I look forward to working with you and our appropriators to ensure that any expenditures for furniture are prudent and responsible. Delaying or stopping this procurement will only increase space costs for our fee-paying customers.

Sincerely,

BRUCE A. LEHMAN,
Assistant Secretary of Commerce and
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.

AUNG SAN SUU KYI THE INDOMITABLE

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, for eight years Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi has battled the military junta in an indomitable, peaceful way which deserves the admiration of us all. For five of these years she was held under house arrest. This is no longer the case, though events of the last week show that her freedom continues to be limited, as is the freedom of all Burmese citizens.

Last Friday, Aung San Suu Kyi began a journey to meet with members of the National League for Democracy in Nyaungdon township, outside of the capital. She never made it. The thugs who run the military junta blocked her passage. She spent six days in her car surrounded by soldiers who prevented her from crossing a bridge about 30 miles outside the capital.

These actions were rightly criticized by many of the foreign ministers attending the annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including our own Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. As Keith B. Richburg reported in the Washington Post yesterday, "the foreign ministers of six nations and the European Union confronted a top Burmese official yesterday..." The threat of sanctions was stronger than ever before.

Aung San Suu Kyi has battled the military junta in Burma responsibly for the past two years. And, as Secretary Albright observed, "She has demonstrated uncommon restraint and valor in her often tense encounters with the junta. This last week has been no exception. She sat in her car for days, yet when she spoke, she did so firmly and without rancor." She called for dialogue between the NLD and the junta and consistently speaks of upholding the rule of law. She has recently called for the true parliament of Burma—the one elected in 1990—to be convened by August 21. Perhaps this will be an opportunity for the junta to step aside.

The junta has failed miserably. Burma is a country rich in resources which has been run into the ground by mismanagement. Selected leaders have been censored, jailed, and worse. The junta has no legitimacy and should step aside and let the rightful and elected government of Burma take control. The people of Burma made their preference clear. Eight years long enough to wait.

1-90 LAND EXCHANGE

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, on July 23, the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands Management held a hearing on legislation I have introduced to complete an important land exchange in my state. The bill, S. 2136, would authorize and direct the Forest Service to conclude an exchange with Plum Creek Timber Company which has been under formal discussion for several years.

The exchange is in an area of Washington State characterized by a checkerboard ownership pattern of intermingled ownership between Plum Creek and the Forest Service. These lands are among the most studied not only in my state but the Nation. The problems of checkerboard ownership are well recognized and understood in the west and northwest. This exchange, trading 60,000 of Plum Creek land for 40,000 acres of Forest Service land, would help resolve many management issues for both owners. It would make management more efficient, especially on an ecosystem basis.

I introduced my bill to provide impetus to complete this exchange by year's end because of the need for a speedy resolution. If the exchange is not completed by the end of this year, Plum Creek will have no choice but to resume logging their land in 1999. The company has deferred harvests on 90 percent of the exchange lands for the past 2 years and they have firmly stated they cannot continue to do so.

There is broad public support for the exchange and for completing it in a timely fashion. Our governor, Gary Locke, and the Lands Commissioner, Jennifer Belcher, have endorsed the exchange—urging it's completion by the end of 1998. The State Legislature unanimously approved a resolution in support of the I-90 exchange. Major newspapers in Seattle and other cities have recognized the need to finish this exchange. Many environmental groups support a land exchange.

Mr. President, our subcommittee hearing pointed out the difficult problems we face in Washington when we try to resolve issues. There always seems to be a controversy, no matter how worthy the purpose. My legislation and the I-90 exchange are no different.

Representatives from the environmental community, Plum Creek and the Forest Service testified on July 23. While mainstream environmental groups heartily support an exchange, I believe they prefer the complexities of the I-90 exchange to the potential for a bill designed to enact a land exchange it has negotiated. Each party has spent over $1 million getting to this point. Must we spend more, only to run the risk of seeing the entire exchange fall apart as a result of the heavy weight of appeals and litigation?

The I-90 exchange has been proposed in various shapes and sizes for more than a decade. Since it was first considered, the Northern Spotted Owl has been listed under the Endangered Species Act and the President has put his Northwest Forest Plan in effect. Plum Creek has even completed a massive Habitat Conservation Plan on 170,000 acres of its lands—including those in this exchange. This Plan, now two years old, was negotiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. With this background and the resulting studies, I am confident we can complete an exchange on these lands that represents a consensus.

Mr. President, I recognize and support the idea of getting it right. We have been at this exchange too long not to do just that. When I introduced the final EIS, I indicated it was simply a placeholder. The final Environmental Impact Statement will be completed later this summer. It has been my intention to amend the legislation to incorporate necessary changes based on the final EIS.

After hearing the testimony of all parties, I have urged them to work together to identify a lands package that
can be incorporated in the final EIS. Further I am asking the Forest Service to move up the deadline for completing a final EIS to September 10 and forwarding it to the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands Management. Such a document—presented to Congress in a timely manner—we leave all options open this year. I continue to believe legislating this exchange is the right thing to do.

Mr. President, there are many questions why Congress should legislate this exchange. It is a common practice. Congress has not shied away from passing land trades in the past and we should not in this instance when a consensus may be imminent.

In an editorial on the exchange The Seattle Times stated, “The perfect as enemy of the good is a common phrase these days, but it remains appropriate to this situation. A transfer of 100,000 acres with a net gain of 20,000 to the public has a long-term ring to it that future generations may see as prescient. Those are powerful reasons to walk toward this agreement with eyes open, but keep walking.”

TRIBUTE TO THE PROCTOR FIRE DEPARTMENT/SUTHERLAND FALLS HOSE COMPANY ON THEIR 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, August 15, 1998, will be a great day for Vermonters, as well as the centennial of the Proctor Fire Department/Sutherland Falls Hose Company. On behalf of all Vermonters, I want to wish the department a very happy birthday.

For a century, the Proctor Fire Department has been a vital part of its community. The firefighters continually risk their lives to protect the welfare of their neighbors. One such person was Firefighter Maurice “Sonny” Raymond Barrow, a twenty-three year veteran of the department. He gave his life on January 23, 1994, while at the scene of a mutual aid fire in Pittsford, Vermont. Mr. Wardwell is a true hero and his sacrifice serves as a reminder to us all of dedication and selflessness of this profession.

Mr. President, the 100th birthday of the Proctor Fire Department/Sutherland Falls Hose Company is a monumental occasion. The department is a vital part of the town and provides prompt and reliable service to people in the most distressing situations. This tribute recognizes the importance of the Proctor Fire Department/Sutherland Falls Hose Company and, more importantly, the courageous firefighters who dedicate their time and service to the community.

IN MEMORY OF MR. CLYDE RAYMOND BARROW

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the passing of Clyde Raymond Barrow. He was a dear friend, a devoted family man, and a committed community member. His life enriched the lives of countless people. I would like to take a few moments to reflect on this special person.

Clyde Barrow was born on March 3, 1923, to Avis Barrow and Deacon Barrow Foster; ninety eight Godchildren; many nieces and nephews; as well as friends and relatives too numerous to count. The Barrows are also the parents of Keith Errol Barrow, who preceeded his father in death in 1983.

To Reverend Barrow, and Clyde’s surviving family and friends, I wish there was some way that I could lift this burden of loss from your shoulders. We must take comfort in the fact that Clyde led a life of tremendous courage, dignity, and kindness. Clyde Barrow’s life is an example of righteousness for us all to follow.

Although Clyde Barrow is no longer with us, he has left scores of memories and a legacy of goodwill and compassion that will live on forever. He was the strong, silent partner of the little warrior, Reverend Barrow, supporting her in her many civil rights battles and her stewardship of Operation Push.

A welder by trade, Clyde also labored countless hours to build and strengthen his community by volunteering his considerable time and talents. Clyde’s involvement with organizations such as the Doctors Hospital of Hyde Park and the Vernon Park Church of God’s MASTER (Men Achieving Success and Training) Homeless Ministry represent his well earned reputation as a good Samaritan. As one who cherished children, Clyde Barrow went out of his way to make time for the kids in his church and neighborhood. Without a doubt, Clyde Barrow was the embodiment of the neighbor we all want living within the community.

In times such as these, it is comforting to remember the words of our Lord: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes with the dawn.” Clyde Raymond Barrow was a fine man, dedicated to his family, his community, and his God. The Barrows are in my thoughts and prayers and the Barrow family will always be loved by all who knew him. I trust that they are in the prayers of the Senate as well.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN IRAN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, December 10, 1948—nearly 50 years ago—the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As the preamble to the document says, “to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded...” Since that time, the Universal Declaration has become the bedrock document for human rights standards and aspirations for signatory governments.

One government, however, the government of Iran, is distinguished as an egregious violator of a central principle this document expounds—namely, the right to religious freedom. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration explicitly states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”

On Tuesday, July 21st, the Iranian government summarily executed an Iranian Baha’i for the single alleged act of converting a Muslim to the Baha’i faith. The Baha’is are Iran’s largest religious minority with about 300,000 adherents and suffer continuous persecution for their faith. The executed, Mr. Reza Rowhani, a medical equipment salesman with four children, had been picked-up near the northern Iranian city of Mashad by the Iranian authorities in September 1997. He was held in solitary confinement during that extended period until final execution.

The facts are stark in their cruelty. His family was allowed to visit him briefly the day before his execution but, amazingly and cynically, they were not notified. A transfer of 100,000 acres was set for the next day. They finally discovered the death only after they were given one hour to arrange for his burial. With brutal disregard, the Iranian government refused to divulge any information to this grieving family who were forced to conclude from the rope marks that their beloved relative had been executed by hanging.

It is safe to say that Mr. Rowhani was accorded no due process nor afforded a lawyer prior to his execution but, amazingly and cynically, they were not notified. Execution was set for the next day. They finally discovered the death only after they were given one hour to arrange for his burial. With brutal disregard, the Iranian government refused to divulge any information to this grieving family who were forced to conclude from the rope marks that their beloved relative had been executed by hanging.

My deepest concern now rests with the fifteen other Baha’is now being held by the government of Iran for exercising the same freedom of conscience and religion. This is an outrage which must be denounced.

Mr. President, this barbarous act flies in the face of the Universal Declaration to which Iran is party. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to practice his religion. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to a public trial. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to counsel. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to be heard by a court of law. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to present evidence. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to free speech. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to free association. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to freedom of religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. Mr. Rowhani was the victim of the most extreme form of religious persecution. Mr. Rowhani died for his faith and this is an outrage which must be denounced.

Mr. President, this barbarous act flies in the face of the Universal Declaration to which Iran is party. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to practice his religion. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to a public trial. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to counsel. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to present evidence. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to free speech. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to free association. Iran denied him that right. Mr. Rowhani had a fundamental right to freedom of religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.