enhanced building capability, which is the goal of planned interior upgrades, is not unreasonable in terms of cost and purpose. And S. 2280, as passed, would place the ceiling on building costs that the GSA recommends.

Two of the PTO’s three unions fully support the project. National Treasury Employees Union locals 243 (representing clerical employees) and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) have already signed a partnership agreement supporting PTO’s plans for the project. The PTO is continuing discussions with the third union.

U.S. Department of Commerce,
Patent and Trademark Office,

Hon. John W. Warner,
U.S. Senator, 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 used to compare our present, unconsolidated space with a worst-case scenario of moving to a new, consolidated facility under the GSA prospectus. Many of the amounts 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 $250,000 for a shower curtain, $750 for a crib, or $1,000 for a coat rack. I also note 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 over $1 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. However, events of the last week show 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 her 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 of 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 with charges: No harm must come to the Nobel Peace Prize winner.” I think it is clear that we in the Senate share this sentiment.

We hold the leaders of the military junta in Burma responsible for the safety of Aung San Suu Kyi. Period.

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 an inept and ruthlessly corrupt military dictatorship. Leaders of those eastern states which have been run into the ground by a military dictatorship.

The junta must step aside. The problems of checkerboard ownership of state 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 incentives 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 bill, S. 2136, would authorize and direct the Forest Service to conclude an exchange with Plum Creek Timber Company which has been under consideration for so long, would oppose 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 fail apart as a result of the heavy weight of 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 I-90 Land Exchange, I indicated that it was simply a placeholder. The final Environmental Impact Statement will be completed later this year. It has been my intention to amend the legislation to incorporate necessary changes based on that statement.

After hearing the testimony of all parties, I have urged them to work together to identify a lands package that