she found herself wearing Wellies and the next she was meeting the Lord and Lady of the Manor.

I can gladly say that our mission was a success. We were able to open up doors for new business relationships and tourism between Ireland and Vermont, while also bringing back information on how to develop agri-tourism in Vermont. I ask that an article regarding Mrs. Kennett’s experience be printed in the record.

The article follows:

[From the Associated Press, June 23, 1999]

FARM LIFE GROWS AS TOURISM DRAW IN VERMONT

(Richard Gram)

ROCHESTER, VT. Beth Kennett calls the big, five-story, red barn with its cupola topped with a Holstein-shaped weathervane “one of the cathedrals of the country.”

And if people from around the world travel to Paris to see the Notre Dame, why not to Rochester’s Liberty Hill to see her farm?

In fact, they do. In addition to milking one of the most productive small herds of registered Holsteins in the state, Kennett, her husband Bob and her sons Tom and David—young men who are following their parents into farming—open their sprawling, two-century-old farmhouse to travelers.

They’re part of a growing number of Vermont farmers who are bridging the gap between two of the mainstays of Vermont’s economy—agriculture and tourism.

The Kennett’s house dates from 1825, the barn from 1869, there are splendid views of the surrounding hills, and a front porch on the White River with several good swimming holes, and hiking trails in the abutting Green Mountain National Forest. Down in the well kept barn, there are 65 milkers and, occasionally, a newborn calf to marvel at.

Kennen got into the hospitality business when a big drop in prices paid to farmers for milk in the mid-1980s forced her to look for new sources of income.

“We took stock of our assets, and decided that we needed to find some use for our big old farmhouse with 18 rooms, we might as well take advantage of it,” she recalled.

Now she’s got a regular clientele of guests who return year after year, she’s president of an association of farmers who offer lodging, tours and other amenities for visitors, and she’s just back from joining Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., on a trade mission to Ireland.

For a full dinner, big breakfast and charm in country lodgings complete with wide-board floors, flowered wallpaper and a claw-foot bathtub, Kennett charges $70 per adult and $30 per child. The house can accommodate 15 guests and occasionally is the destination for reunions of several branches of the same family.

“What we’re looking for with agri-tourism is to literally make this another revenue stream for farmers,” Fisher said. “It’s not going to replace the milk check, but it’s another source of cash flow to the individual who’s going to open up the farm to agri-tourism.”

Agri-tourism may be due for a boost from the federal government. Rep. Bernard Sanders, Vermont’s only member of the U.S. House has proposed a $1 million appropriation for a pilot project to promote the fledgling industry.

Kennen said some funds become available, she may look for Vermont to apply for some of the ideas she picked up in Ireland, where she said farm-based tourism is widely practiced, accepted and considered an integral part of the country’s allure for visitors.

Fisher said state officials hope agri-tourism can help stanch the loss of farms in Vermont. There were more than 20,000 in 1950, the fast majority of them dairy operations; today there are fewer than 3,000 dairy farms in the state. Kennett said there were 11 farms on her block when she and her husband moved to Rochester from Addison 20 years ago; today, she said, theirs is the last farm in Rochester shipping milk.

Kennen said the hospitality business is a lot of work. Kennett said she’s up at milking time to make breakfast for her guests, and spends afternoon preparing dinner for her family and up to 15 guests.

But she said she has no complaints. It’s been a great way to beat the isolation which can be a feature of Vermont farm life. She doesn’t need to visit the world’s concert halls, because there’s a family of accomplished violinists who visit every year from Newton, Mass., and put on a concert at the farm.

Then there’s the art professor and his class who arrive en masse for a week occasionally. They paint the surrounding scenery and then put on an art show at week’s end. And there’s the magician from New York who comes and puts on a show each Fourth of July.

“I don’t need to go off and see the world,” Kennett said. “The world comes to me.”

TRIBUTE TO VERY REVEREND A.G. DOUMATO

Mr. CHAFFEE, Mr. President. I rise today to praise and commend the dedication and commitment of Very Reverend Abulahad Gabriel Doumato who, for the past fifty years, has led the parish of Saint Ephraim’s Syrian Orthodox Church in Rhode Island.

Approximately 300 friends, family members, clergy, and officials and parishioners will gather on Sunday, August 1st, to honor Father Doumato on this milestone. A native of Syria, we in his adopted state of Rhode Island have benefitted from and been enriched by his deep commitment to service, devotion, compassion and wisdom—attributes which have characterized his long and distinguished tenure.

Father Doumato is a compassionate individual who cares profoundly for his community. He is a deeply peaceable and religious man who possesses boundless hope and optimism. He has consistently and successfully worked for the betterment of his community and has always served with faith and devotion. Indeed, he is a man of integrity, flawless character, unquestionable commitment, and one who has earned a sterling reputation as a pillar of his community.

The original community of Saint Ephraim’s Church in Rhode Island was formed by a group of immigrant families who came to the United States before the turn of the century. This small, industrious community managed to buy a house and use it as a parish center and chapel for worship. The church was subsequently chartered in 1913.

Although Saint Ephraim’s has only been in existence for 86 years, the Syrian Orthodox Church has its roots in the original Christian Church of Jerusalem. The dean of Apostles, Saint John of Damascus has led the church for the past fifty years, he is the 122nd direct successor of Saint Peter.

The church claims a wealth of theological, liturgical, and musical traditions. Indeed, to this day the liturgy is conducted in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus Christ, and was the lingua franca in the Near East.

Mr. President, Father Doumato has enjoyed an interesting and fulfilling career in the ministry of his church. Like many of us, his life has been filled with challenges, hardships and hope. Unlike many of us, however, he has enjoyed some truly unique and rich experiences. He was born in 1918 and raised in the shadow of the Cathedral Church of the Virgin Mary in the city of Homs, Syria. He was educated in Homs, first in his church’s school, and then at the University Brothers. His interest in theology and his Church was an early and important part of his life. His father, the late Gabriel Doumato, who immigrated to Rhode Island in 1973, was an ardent supporter of the Church and served his community in many capacities.

Upon completing his education, Father Doumato taught in the Church’s schools across Syria. At the beginning of World War II, he entered the French-run National Police Academy and graduated with honors in 1939. For the next ten years, he served as a member of the National Police Force. Throughout this period, he continued to serve the Church as a deacon and was constantly urged by His Holiness Patriarch Ephraim, the Church’s supreme leader, to join the ministry. In 1949, he resigned his commission and entered the Seminary of the Syrian Orthodox Church in America.

Father Doumato was ordained into the priesthood in August 1950 by His Holiness Patriarch Ephraim and immediately assigned to serve the church in Central Falls, Rhode Island. Because of visa delays however, he was unable to
attend to this position for two years. In the meantime, he remained in Homestead and served as personal assistant to His Holiness the Patriarch.

Accompanied by his wife, Victoria, and their four young children, Father Doumato arrived in Rhode Island in August 1952 to lead his new congregation. Ever since his arrival, Father Doumato has quietly and faithfully served God, his parish, our State, and, indeed, our country. He has also authored numerous publications about the history of the church and its Divine Liturgy. In 1970, his dedication and self-sacrifice was recognized and honored when he was elevated to the position of Cor-Episcopose—the highest distinction of the priesthood. In 1991, he was again honored for his service and was awarded the Holy Cross of the Archdioceses of the United States and Canada.

In closing, I would like to extend my very best wishes on this special occasion to Father Doumato, to his family, and to his parishioners at Saint Ephraim’s Syrian Orthodox Church in Rhode Island. A proud and patriotic “American”, Father Doumato loves his adopted country and is happiest when helping the new immigrants within his flock assimilate into American society. As a co-founder of the United States Senate Caucus on the Middle East, and as a supporter of the army’s first officially sanctioned Orthodox Christian chaplains, Father Doumato has been an important friend to the armed forces of our country. I am proud to join with Senator Reed and Senator Ensign in congratulating Channel One on their efforts to bring to the attention of Senators the retirement of Lieutenant General Patrick M. Hughes of the United States Army. A native of Great Falls, Montana, General Hughes has made major contributions to the defense of this great country, through a military career spanning nearly 40 years.

The recipient of many military awards and honors, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, General Hughes has been a valuable friend to the American people and the people he has served in his distinguished career.

Although we have come to expect people of high caliber and dedication in our armed forces, General Hughes’ service has been exceptional. Most recently assigned as the Director for Intelligence, J2, the Joint Staff, General Hughes began his military career in 1962. Following completion of his enlistment in 1965, he attended Montana State University, where he graduated in 1968. He was then commissioned in the U.S. Army infantry, and served two tours in Vietnam. He commanded several military intelligence (MI) detachments, an MI battalion, an MI brigade and the Army Intelligence Agency. He also served in senior staff positions, including a tour as the J2 of the U.S. Central Command.

Throughout his distinguished career, General Hughes’ tireless and sincere dedication to the men and women in uniform has vastly improved their quality of life and mission readiness. As he retires from the United States Army, he will leave behind a tremendous legacy.

Mr. President, General Hughes is a great credit to the Army and the Nation. I salute him for his many years of dedicated public service to our country, and offer my gratitude to him, his wife Karlene and their sons, Barry and Chad, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army. I know I speak for the people of my state when I say that I am proud of General Hughes; I know that I speak for all Americans when I say that he will be missed.

CHANNEL ONE NETWORK

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I will ask to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two letters recognizing the efforts of the Channel One Network in educating school-age children in the dangers of drug use.

These letters were originally included in the transcript of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing on July 13 regarding Drug Free Schools.

The first is from Richard Bonnette, President of the Partnership for a Drug Free America, congratulating Channel One on the airing of $25 million worth of pro bono anti-drug public service announcements over the last ten years as part of its news broadcasts to school-aged children.

I am pleased to join Mr. Bonnette in congratulating Channel One on their efforts.

The letters follow.


Hon. James Jeffords, Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I respectfully request that the attached letter from Richard Bonnette, President and CEO of the Partnership for a Drug Free America be made a part of the record for the Committee’s July 13, 1999 hearing on Drug Free Schools.

Mr. Bonnette writes in praise of the excellent public service of the Channel One Network in educating our nation’s youth about the dangers of drug use. I would like to join Mr. Bonnette’s praise of the Channel One Network.

Over the past ten years, Channel One has aired more than $25 million worth of anti-drug public service announcements as part of its news broadcasts to school-aged children. The efforts of the Channel One Network demonstrate good corporate citizenship. When we in Congress call upon the media and entertainment industries to act responsibly for the benefit of our children, this is part of what we are talking about.

Mr. Bonnette’s letter refers to a study conducted between 1995–1997 by the Partnership for a Drug Free America. The study found strong evidence that students in Channel One schools had significantly more negative attitudes about drugs, and were much more aware of the risks of drugs than students in non-Channel One schools. I am pleased to here add my praise of their efforts.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback
U.S. Senator.