

Bob Morrow was loved by so many—and he will be missed by us all.●

JOHN HOFFMAN

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to honor a very special person with whom many of us have worked over the years on a variety of technical and important issues. These issues have been and continue to be of great importance to the American consumer and the world marketplace.

I learned recently that John Hoffman, currently Senior Vice President of Sprint Communications, has decided to leave and remit the ongoing telecommunications debate to others. I think that what I, and others, will perhaps miss most, is the calm, rational and fair presence that John brought to the telecommunications debate here in Congress and elsewhere.

John has spent his entire career, some thirty years, with Sprint, helping bring it from a small local exchange company to a major state-of-the-art communications company providing services to millions of businesses and consumers.

Throughout John's career, which began in 1970 while John was still in law school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Sprint was called United Telecom, he persevered through tough times and retained his vision of what the small company could become. I don't think there is any doubt that his ideas and efforts were right.

Sprint, today, is a global communications company at the forefront in integrating long distance, local and wireless communications services and one of the world's largest carriers of internet traffic. With John's help and diligence, Sprint built the nation's only all-digital, fiber optic network and is the leader in advanced data communications services.

John has been a good friend to me over the years. He should be very proud of his contributions to making Sprint the world class company it is today.

I wish the best to John, his wife Linda and daughter Heather. Good luck John, and feel free to call me—I know you have a phone.●

CRAGIN & PIKE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize one of Nevada's oldest and most respected businesses on the occasion of its 90th Anniversary. The Las Vegas insurance firm of Cragin & Pike was begun in 1909 by Ernie Cragin and William Pike, pioneers in the truest sense of the word. In 1909, Las Vegas was a newborn city, having been founded just four years earlier as a railroad division point for the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad.

Since its 20th century birth, when Las Vegas was established as a railroad community, the Las Vegas Valley has seen dynamic change. Cragin & Pike has enjoyed as colorful a history as the city it calls home, both witnessing and shaping the events that would make Las Vegas the world's premier city for entertainment and tourism. Ernie Cragin himself served as the mayor of Las Vegas for 25 years. William Pike saw the legalization of Nevada gambling in 1931 and the construction of the Boulder Dam completed four years later. Cragin & Pike has been a full partner to many of the city's most familiar names in business.

In a city that defines itself by the ever changing view from the Las Vegas Strip, Cragin & Pike has endured through its dedication to its customers and its rock solid business philosophies. I know that its name sake founders would be as proud as I am today to see this innovative yet faithful member of the Las Vegas community observe yet another achievement in the celebration of its 90th Anniversary. I congratulate the partners and associates of Cragin & Pike on this accomplishment, and look forward to many more.●

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to comment on my decision to support two resolutions concerning the Middle East peace process. Both of these resolutions express congressional opposition to any efforts by either party in the peace process to attempt, through unilateral actions, to pre-judge or pre-determine the outcome of the negotiations currently taking place between the Palestinians and the Israelis. I would like to take a moment to explain why I decided to cosponsor these resolutions.

I believe that one of the most important foreign policy issues facing America today is how to encourage peace in the Middle East. Reaching a peace agreement at this time is extremely critical, not only to our strategic interests in the region, but to the parties themselves. I remain optimistic that despite the various setbacks, it will still be possible for the parties to achieve a just and lasting peace.

However, in my view, the only way to achieve such a peace is for the parties to abide by the plan of negotiations as set out in the context of Madrid, Oslo, and most recently, in the Wye Plantation Agreement. This plan clearly sets forth a structure which dictates the timetable and order of discussing certain very critical issues.

I am particularly concerned that any unilateral actions by the parties or co-sponsors which might pre-judge the outcome or change this plan would have a great potential to undermine what limited chance we have for peace in the Middle East.

Within this context, the parties, with the full support of the co-sponsors, agreed to delay the discussion of many of the most critical and difficult issues until final status negotiations, and promised not to take any unilateral actions which might pre-judge or pre-determine the outcome of those issues. My opposition to unilateral actions by any party or co-sponsor, including the United States, is well known and on the record. It was, for example, the principal basis for my opposition in 1995 to S. 1322, which mandated the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Similarly, just as I was concerned about the potentially injurious impact on the peace process of prematurely addressing issues relating to Jerusalem, I am equally concerned about the impact of a unilateral and premature declaration by the Palestinians regarding statehood. I believe such a unilateral declaration by the Palestinian Authority would almost certainly undermine future progress toward a peace accord.

It is my understanding that the Administration's position is consistent with these congressional resolutions, and in fact the United States has maintained ongoing discussions with the Palestinians to discourage them from unilaterally declaring a state outside the context of the negotiations.

My support for both of these resolutions are based on this principle alone: That any unilateral actions by either parties or co-sponsors are disruptive and damaging to the peace process as a whole. My support for these resolutions is not a comment regarding what the Palestinian authorities should do if the peace process fails and no final status agreement can be reached. Nor is it a comment on the merits of a Palestinian state. Nor, finally, is it a suggestion that a Palestinian state should not be created as part of the final status agreement should the parties decide upon that themselves. Indeed, for the process to be successful, the Palestinians must be permitted to exercise their independence.

My support for these resolutions is thus exclusively and solely a statement that in my opinion, a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state at this time would probably destroy any chance to reach a just and lasting peace between the parties. Peace is too important—and too much effort toward achieving such a peace has been expended by all parties and co-sponsors for it to be jeopardized in this way.●

COMMENDING HAZEL WOLF ON HER 101ST BIRTHDAY

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure to recognize Ms. Hazel Wolf of Seattle, Washington, in honor of her 101st birthday on Wednesday, March 10, 1999. Ms. Wolf, a great, great grand-mother, is a tireless advocate for conservation, environmental