and environmental standpoint. As a result, our rural economies are strengthened, and our agricultural products are becoming more competitive in the global market.

I rise today to acknowledge and commend Dr. Robert Horsch and the Monsanto team of researchers for their excellent work. They have played a critical role in the pioneering of gene transfer technology and plant regeneration which began more than 15 years ago. As a result of their relentless pursuit of a vision, their development of agricultural biotechnology, as a science and as an industry, will continue to keep the United States at the forefront of food production.

Dr. Horsch and the Monsanto team of scientists are visionaries in their quest to improve the quality of life. Their perseverance, commitment, and dedication to science is an inspiration for others to reach their ''highest and best.'' I wish them continued success as they guide us on a revolutionary path into the Twenty-First Century.

## NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, it is with great honor and privilege that I congratulate Dr. Ernest G. Jaworski, a member of the Monsanto team of scientists, on receiving the National Medal of Technology Award for developing biotechnology that will help meet the global agricultural challenges of the Twenty-First Century.

Dr. Ernest G. Jaworski was the Director of Biological Sciences before retiring from Monsanto in 1993. Since then, he has served as Scientist In Residence at the St. Louis Science Center and Interim Director of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. He earned his Doctorate in biochemistry in 1952, from Oregon State University. Among his accomplishments, Dr. Jaworski assembled and led the team that developed the world's first practical system to introduce foreign genes into plants.

Agriculture is the foundation of many countries' economies, and consequently, the majority of the world's population makes its living in agriculture and food-based activities. Transforming these agricultural economies is important to achieving broad-based economic growth, not only in the United States, but worldwide. In this respect, investments in new agricultural technologies will increase farmer incomes, promote food security, advance other critical development initiatives, and contribute to environmental improvements. Agricultural biotechnology was first introduced to farms in 1995, and today in the United States, there are over 53 million acres of biotech crops.

As global food demand continues to increase, there is an immediate need to develop new agriculture tools that are productive and sustainable. With the use of new agricultural biotechnologies, genetically enhanced seeds are already decreasing pest infestation, increasing crop yields, and reducing the need for pesticides. I believe that these new farming methods offer tremendous potential for farmers and consumers from an agronomic, economic, and environmental standpoint. As a result, our rural economies are strengthened, and our agricultural products are becoming more competitive in the global market.

I rise today to acknowledge and commend Dr. Ernest Jaworski and the Monsanto team of researchers for their excellent work. They have played a critical role in the pioneering of gene transfer technology and plant regeneration which began more than 15 years ago. As a result of their relentless pursuit of a vision, their development of agricultural biotechnology, as a science and as an industry, will continue to keep the United States at the forefront of food production.

Dr. Jaworski and the Monsanto team of scientists are visionaries in their quest to improve the quality of life. Their perseverance, commitment, and dedication to science is an inspiration for others to reach their ''highest and best.'' I wish them continued success as they guide us on a revolutionary path into the Twenty-First Century.

## NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, it is a great honor and privilege to congratulate Dr. Stephen G. Rogers, a member of the Monsanto team of scientists, on receiving the National Medal of Technology Award for developing biotechnology that will help meet the global agricultural challenges of the Twenty-First Century.

Dr. Stephen G. Rogers is the director of biotechnology projects for Europe located at Monsanto's Cereals Technology Center in Cambridge, England, where he is presently working on the integration of modern crop breeding with improved crop methods. He earned his Doctorate in biology in 1976, from the Johns Hopkins University. Among his accomplishments, Dr. Rogers is a member of the team that developed the first method for producing new proteins in plants, leading to the discovery of virus resistance and insect protection traits for crops—a development that is revolutionizing modern farming.

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I rise today to acknowledge and commend Dr. Stephen Rogers and the Monsanto team of researchers for their excellent work. They have played a critical role in the pioneering of gene transfer technology and plant regeneration which began more than 15 years ago. As a result of their relentless pursuit of a vision, their development of agricultural biotechnology, as a science and as an industry, will continue to keep the United States at the forefront of food production.

Dr. Rogers and the Monsanto team of scientists are visionaries in their quest to improve the quality of life. Their perseverance, commitment, and dedication to science is an inspiration for others to reach their ''highest and best.'' I wish them continued success as they guide us on a revolutionary path into the Twenty-First Century.

## CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

## Y2K ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 96. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 96) to regulate commerce between and among the several States by providing for the orderly resolution of disputes arising out of computer-based problems relating to processing data that includes a 2-digit expression of that year's date.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to