

Whereas numerous Seton Hall students risked their own lives as the fire broke out to save the lives of their fellow dormitory residents;

Whereas firefighters, paramedics, police officers and other emergency personnel from the surrounding communities worked bravely into the early morning darkness to reduce casualties and extinguish the fire;

Whereas the entire Seton Hall University community has banded together in grief to remember the fallen students, and numerous people outside the university recognize the enormity of this tragedy and the need to do everything possible to keep it from happening again since every student should be able to pursue an education in a safe, secure environment: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its sympathy to the families and friends of Frank S. Caltabilota, John N. Giunta and Aaron C. Karol on the occasion of the funeral service on January 25, 2000;

(2) expresses its hope for a speedy recovery to those students, firefighters and police officers injured in the fire;

(3) expresses its support for all of the students, faculty and staff at Seton Hall University as they heal from the tragedy;

(4) expresses its support and thanks to the brave firefighters, paramedics, police and other emergency workers who saved numerous lives;

(5) pledges to ensure that Federal, State and local government entities work together to prevent a tragedy like this from occurring again, so that our nation's college students can live, work and study in the safest possible environment.

#### NOTICES OF HEARINGS

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2000, 10 a.m., in SH-216 of the Senate Hart Building. The subject of the hearing is "Reducing Medical Error: A look at the Iom report." For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, SAFETY, AND TRAINING

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Subcommittee on Employment, Safety, and Training, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2000, 2:30 p.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is "Safe at Home: OSHA and the Modern Day Workplace." For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Subcommittee on Public Health, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2000, 9

a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is "Gene Therapy: Promoting Patient Safety." For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### INTERSTATE WASTE BILLS

• Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to once again address the issue of the interstate movement of municipal solid waste. This is an issue that I have been working on for over five years, Mr. President. In 1994, I proposed legislation (S. 2126) that would have authorized localities to impose reasonable limits on imports of municipal solid waste from other states. That legislation did not pass, and even though most communities now negotiate compensation from landfills that imports waste, they negotiate with no real authority to power. In 1997, I re-introduced that bill (S. 448). In 1999 during the 106th Congress, and working with Senator WARNER, I introduced new language that I had hoped would spur discussion and perhaps some creative approaches to solving this problem.

I have tried, as have many other Members including Senators WARNER, BAUCUS, Coats, SPECTER, VOINOVICH, BAYH, CONRAD, SANTORUM, of course Senator CHAFEE, to come to grips with this issue in some reasonable way. We have all tried to come up with legislation that would provide states and localities with some method of refusing the detritus from other states when it becomes an imposition, or a hazard. The Environment and Public Works Committee did have a hearing last summer on this issue, but unfortunately no mark up was held after that hearing. All of our efforts, singly and in concert, have had little effect.

As of today Virginia remains the second largest importer of waste in the US, with the level of waste imported increasing from approximately 2.8 million tons in 1997 to 4.6 million tons in 1998. The figures for 1999 are not in yet but we can safely assume that they are higher still. On May 29th 1996, Mayor Giuliani and Governor George Pataki announced that in December of 2001 the Fresh Kills landfill will close. Fresh Kills remains the point of disposal for much of New York City's waste. Let me quote from a 1997 report prepared by the Congressional Research Service on this looming closure.

How the city will replace Fresh Kill's capacity is unclear. At present, there are few options other than an expanded recycling program and out-of-state disposal. A 1996 report for the city's Department of Sanitation concluded that, given current disposal sites, the city would consume virtually all of the available disposal capacity located within a 365-mile radius.

New York City and the state of New York have done virtually nothing since

that time to increase in-state capacity. I would pose this question to each Senator. Envision the largest city in your state with a solid waste disposal problem of this magnitude, can you imagine your state government, and the mayor of that city simply ignoring the problem and failing to do anything about it? Admittedly, we have some tussles in Virginia, but when we have a problem, we try our level best to solve it ourselves, before we ask the rest of the Union to carry the weight.

This session it is critical that we get something done on this issue. Because when Fresh Kills closes we can expect a lot of additional waste to come our way. Each additional 1 million tons of waste that comes to Virginia will result in 40,000 additional tractor trailer trips on Virginia highways, if the trucks observe the legal weight limit. If they don't, we will have fewer, but more dangerous trucks.

Mr. President, a principle of public health protection embodied in the most basic practices of solid waste disposal is that waste should move as quickly as possible from point of origin to point of disposal. Moving waste over 300 miles through the most congested portion of this country makes no sense, but it will continue unless we move to stop it. Therefore, Mr. President, I urge that the Environment and Public Works Committee move to mark up a bill that will help those of us in Virginia, and Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, and other unwary states to cope with, and put reasonable restrictions on waste coming into our states.

I have proposed an alternative option, but if that can't or won't be taken up by the Environment and Public Works Committee, I am ready to support any and all legislation aimed at empowering states to have some control over waste imports. To that end I ask that I be added as a co-sponsor to both the Specter and Voinovich bills. I will be willing to support any other legislation that serves my stated purpose.

In 104th Congress we came very close to passing an interstate waste bill. Senator SMITH of New Hampshire worked tirelessly on that bill, and was integral to its passage in the Senate. I hope as chairman, he will take up this issue once again, and move a bill through committee for consideration by the full Senate.

We were sent here to tackle complex issues and solve problems. We need to work together, and start now, so that an interstate waste bill will be one of the accomplishments of this year.●

#### HONORING BROTHER RONALD GIANNONE

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a true champion of humanity. A man whose whole life has