

fact, to the best of our scientific knowledge, no species has become extinct in North America due to forestry.

You may disagree with the green groups, but would you still describe yourself as an environmentalist?

James Lovelock is my hero and I believe in the Gaia hypothesis that all life is one living breathing being, I don't see any reason to damage it more than necessary. I believe in gardening the Earth, but there should be lots of places left wild. The "hands off" attitude doesn't work with 6 billion humans needing things from Earth every day.

Why do you oppose the campaign against genetically modified crops?

I believe we are entering an era now where pagan beliefs and junk science are influencing public policy. GM foods and forestry are both good examples where policy is being influenced by arguments that have no basis in fact or logic. Certainly, biotechnology needs to be done very carefully. But GM crops are in the same category as oestrogen-mimicking compounds and pesticide residues. They are seen as an invisible force that will kill us all in our sleep or turn us all into mutants. It is preying on people's fear of the unknown.

What does the future hold for the environmental movement?

We need to get out of the adversarial approach. People who base their opinion on science and reason and who are politically centrist need to take the movement back from the extremists who have hijacked it, often to further agendas that have nothing to do with ecology. It is important to remember that the environmental movement is only 30 years old. All movements to go through some mucky periods. But environmentalism has become codified to such an extent that if you disagree with a single word, then you are apparently not an environmentalist. Rational discord is being discouraged. It has too many of the hallmarks of the Hitler youth, or the religious right.

Crops modified by molecular and cellular methods should pose risks no different from those modified by classical genetic methods for similar traits. As the molecular methods are more specific, users of these methods will be more certain about the traits they introduce into plants.—National Research Council.

America leads the world in agricultural products developed with biotechnology. These products hold great promise and will unlock benefits for consumers, producers and the environment at home and around the world. We are committed to ensuring the safety of our food and environment through strong and transparent science-based domestic regulatory systems.—President William J. Clinton, statement on World Trade Organization objectives October 13, 1999.

January 13, 2000.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER S. BOND,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BOND: The undersigned scientists support the use of biotechnology as a research tool in the development and production of agricultural and food products. We also strongly advocate the use of sound science as the basis for regulatory and political decisions pertaining to biotechnology.

Biotechnology for agriculture and the food industry is offering remarkable innovations—providing new tools for growth and development. Biotechnology has a long history of development. Its early applications produced better quality medicines and im-

proved industrial products. Recently, products have been developed that allow farmers to reduce their input costs and increase yields while providing environmental benefits. In the near future, an ever-increasing number and variety of crops with traits beneficial to consumers will reach the market. Such traits will include improved nutritional values, healthier oils, increased vitamin content, better flavor, and longer shelf life.

The ultimate beneficiaries of technological innovation have always been consumers, both in the United States and abroad. In developing countries, biotechnological advances will provide means to overcome vitamin deficiencies, to supply vaccines for killer diseases like cholera and malaria, to increase production and protect fragile natural resources, and to grow crops under normally unfavorable conditions.

We recognize that no technology is without risks. At the same time, we have confidence in the current U.S. regulatory system provided by the USDA, EPA, and FDA. The U.S. system has worked well and continues to evolve as scientific advancements are achieved.

Considering the tremendous potential of this technology, we urge policy makers to base their decisions on sound scientific evidence.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999—Continued

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2651 AND 2517, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I would like to clear some amendments. Senator LEAHY is ready to do this. I ask unanimous consent that amendments Nos. 2651 and 2517, both of which have been modified, be adopted en bloc in their modified form and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I have no objection. I note that this makes 39 amendments the distinguished chairman and those of us on this side have been able to clear.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Yes. We now only have 9 amendments remaining from the 200 or 300 we started with back in late October. That is quite an accomplishment, and I thank the Senator for his cooperation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendments are agreed to.

The amendments (Nos. 2651 and 2517), as modified, were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2651

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following new section:

SEC. . PROPERTY NO LONGER SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION.

(a) Section 541(b) of title 11 of the United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following—

“(6) any interest of the debtor in property where the debtor pledged or sold tangible personal property (other than securities or written or printed evidences of indebtedness or title) as collateral for a loan or advance of money, where—

“(a) the tangible personal property is in the possession of the pledgee or transferee;

“(b) the debtor has no obligation to repay the money, redeem the collateral, or buy back the property at a stipulated price, and

“(c) neither the debtor nor the trustee have exercised any right to redeem provided under the contract or state law in a timely manner as provided under state law and Section 108(b) of this title.”

AMENDMENT NO. 2517

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. . AVAILABILITY OF TOLL-FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

Section 127(b)(11) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(b)), added by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(K) A creditor that maintains a toll-free telephone number for the purpose of providing customers with the actual number of months that it will take to repay an outstanding balance shall include the following statement on each billing statement: ‘Making only the minimum payment will increase the interest you pay and the time it takes to repay your balance. For more information, call this toll-free number: _____.’”

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I say further to my good friend from Iowa, we have served here for decades together. We were faced with what looked to be an impossible task when it began because of the number of amendments. I note for the record that the distinguished Senator dealt with this side in good faith. We were able, as a result, I think, to put the Senate in a position now where we are within range of being able to have a final vote, and the Senate will work its will either for or against the bill. We will actually be able to do that. It is because Senators on both sides of the aisle dealt with each other in good faith and got rid of a lot of amendments that we knew would go nowhere anyway. The Senator from Iowa and I have been able to accept 39 amendments. I think that is good progress, and I extend my appreciation to him.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank the Senator from Vermont and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I send a bill to the desk regarding citizenship for Mr. Yongyi Song and ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2006) for the relief of Yongyi Song.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I ask for a second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, the procedure on the bill is, under rule XIV, to hold the bill at the desk.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the submission S. 2006 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, how much time remains of my 15 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Nine minutes.

TRIPS MADE OVER THE RECESS PERIOD

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I will comment briefly about two trips I made over the recess.

On December 17, 18, and 19, I traveled to Key West, FL, to observe Coast Guard operations and drug interdiction, and then on to Panama to see the immediate impact of the turnover of the canal to the Panamanian Government, and then on to Colombia, where I had an opportunity to visit with President Pastrana. President Pastrana, coincidentally, was in Washington today and met with members of the Appropriations Committee. The text that I will submit contains a number of comments about the trip to both Key West and Panama.

I did want to make a comment or two about the pending request by the Government of Colombia for funding in excess of \$1 billion to fight the narcotics dealers in Colombia. I am sympathetic with their problems and with the grave difficulties they have encountered. I have seen these difficulties firsthand on three visits to Colombia, the first back in 1988.

I have substantial reservations about a U.S. expenditure in excess of \$1 billion to reduce the supply of narcotics into the United States. I filed a resolution years ago calling for the use of the military in drug curtailment and narcotic interdiction—but as successful as we have been in interdicting narcotics from Latin America and as successful as we have been in having hectares in Peru, Colombia or Bolivia replaced with other crops, the great demand in the United States and worldwide continues, and thus the supply comes back.

The U.S. Government spends approximately \$18 billion a year on drug control. Two-thirds of that, or about \$12 billion, is directed to activities such as interdiction and to fighting street crime in the United States. I do believe that our effort against drug selling on the streets of American cities and America's farms and rural areas has to continue, as I did when I was district attorney of Philadelphia. But the regrettable fact is that as long as the demand for drugs exists, the supply will

continue, and if not from Colombia, from somewhere else. Even as many drug dealers are put in jail, as long as it is profitable, more drug dealers come to the street corners to sell drugs. So I make this cautionary comment about additional heavy investments in trying to stop the supply of drugs until we spend more money on education and more money on rehabilitation.

From January 4 until January 13, in the company of six other Senators, I traveled to Morocco, and then on to Naples, and then to Kosovo, and five Senators continued on to Tunisia and then on to Israel. That trip was very significant in finding very strong support and allies from the Governments of Morocco and Tunisia and seeing the operation of the NATO Southern Command and our strong 6th Fleet. In Kosovo, we saw the superb performance of our American military, where they have moved into a land and have constructed a military base overnight and are doing so much to try to maintain the peace in that very troubled country. My floor statement will recite in detail the findings in Kosovo, Morocco, Tunisia, and Italy.

A word or two about our trip to Israel where we visited the Golan Heights. We had an opportunity to visit with Israeli officials—with Prime Minister Barak, and with Ariel Sharon who leads the Likud and the opposition.

I compliment both the Israelis and the Syrians for moving ahead on the peace process. It is my hope the process will reach fruition.

My own view, after having visited Syria on a number of occasions since 1984, and having seen a decisive shift in the attitude of the leadership of the Government of Syria in the intervening 15–16 years, the prospects for an agreement are reasonably good. We heard a great deal of talk about very substantial funding by the United States. I think it is important where an agreement is reached, which is a costly agreement, that the expenses be shared by the western European nations, by Japan, and by the oil-rich countries of the Persian Gulf, and that the astronomical figures not be cited broadly, which makes it more complex when the matters reach the Congress for consideration of these important funding matters.

Mr. President, I would like to comment further about a recent visit I made to Key West, FL, Panama, and Colombia from December 17–19, 1999, in order to gain a firsthand view on matters of concern to both my constituents in Pennsylvania and all citizens of the United States.

I departed Andrews Air Force Base on the morning of December 17, 1999, and arrived at Key West Naval Air Station where I proceeded to the Coast Guard Group Key West. I was met by Captain Rudolph, the commanding offi-

cer of Group Key West and was given an operations briefing from Lieutenant Commander Woodring. The briefing detailed the mission of Group Key West in such activities as drug interdiction, migrant operations, and search and rescue. Following the briefing, I boarded the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (USCGS) *Monhegan* where the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Benjamin A. Cooper, and his crew, gave me a briefing of their mission. They discussed how their ability to apprehend drug smugglers could be enhanced by virtue of the Coast Guard's new use of armed helicopters, which the Coast Guard considers to be their most potent aid in capturing drug traffickers.

I informed the crew of the *Monhegan* that I had been one of the original cosponsors of S. 2728 in 1990, a measure which clarified and expanded the authority of the armed forces to provide support for civilian law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, this legislation authorized the use of military aircraft for transportation of, and flight training for, civilian law enforcement personnel and for aerial surveillance. According to the crew, the speed of the drug traffickers boats, known as "go fast boats," has hampered their ability to get near the smugglers. The armed helicopters are one of their best weapons in chasing "go-fast boats," in their drug interdiction mission. Following my review of the *Monhegan*, I was given a tour of the USCG Cutter *Thetis* by Commander Finch. I found Commander Finch to be an impressive officer who was forthright in this opinions of the military and its various functions. The role of the USCG Cutter *Thetis* is maritime law enforcement and search and rescue that uses electronic sensors and computerized command and control systems. The crew of the cutter *Thetis* was warm and friendly and we engaged in conversation over such issues as the role of gays in the Coast Guard, integrated gender training, and women's service aboard ships. I was pleased by the open exchange among the crew, and I was gratified to find that several of them were Pennsylvanians.

Upon leaving the cutter *Thetis*, I proceeded to the Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF)—East which was formed as the umbrella organization to coordinate interdiction of illicit drugs in the Caribbean Basin. I was met by Rear Admiral Edward J. Barrett, Director of JIATF—East, who gave me a tour and introduced me to his staff who provided me a classified briefing on the threats faced by JIATF—East. Following the briefing, I was accompanied by Admiral Barrett and Captain Frank Klein, Director of Operations, on a tour of the classified Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC).

The following day, December 18, 1999, I traveled to Colombia. I arrived in Bogota in the early afternoon and was