

as well as a technical correction that Senator ROCKEFELLER and I have proposed to ensure that special needs children continue to be eligible for adoption assistance.

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program provides vital services for thousands of at risk children in our Nation. The sad fact is that far too many children here at home are at risk, not because of the terrorist threat, but because they are neglected or abused by parents or because they are trapped in the legal limbo that is our child welfare system. Because of this, we have an obligation to these children. We have an obligation to protect these innocent lives.

With the passage of our bill, we are taking a big step toward meeting that obligation. By reauthorizing and improving the Safe and Stable Families Program, we can help strengthen families and ensure the safety of vulnerable children.

I was very pleased that during the Floor debate on the fiscal year 2002 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, the Senate agreed to my amendment, which increased funding for the Safe and Stable Families Program by \$70 million. This raised the program's overall funding level to \$375 million.

The funding provided to the States through this legislation is used for four categories of services: family preservation, community-based family support, time-limited family reunification, and adoption promotion and support. These services are designed to prevent child abuse and neglect in communities at risk, avoid the removal of children from their homes, and support timely reunification or adoption. And, quite candidly, Promoting Safe and Stable Families is a very important source of funding for post-adoption services.

With a nearly 40 percent increase in the number of adoptions since the implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, funding for adoption promotion and support services is especially vital. These services are necessary to ensure that adoptions are not disrupted, which risks further traumatizing a child.

Our reauthorization bill also amends the Foster Care Independent Living Program to extend the eligibility age from 21 to 23, so that children aging out of foster care can qualify for educational and training vouchers. Currently, too many of the 16,000 children youth who age out of foster care are not able to pursue educational or vocational training because they just don't have the money. This provision helps these young people get the education and career training they need and deserve.

The bill doubles the funding for the Court Improvement Program, CIP, and reauthorizes it through 2006. The CIP program provides grants to the States to develop a system of more timely

court actions that provides for the safety of children in foster care and expedites the placement of such children in appropriate permanent settings. This money helps ensure that State courts have the resources necessary to stay in compliance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act. In my own home State of Ohio, this money has been used to develop and implement an attorney certification program in family law. Additionally, the CIP money has been used to implement the Court Appointed Special Advocate, CASA, Program throughout Ohio and to implement five pilot programs that uniquely address family law issues.

Also, Senator ROCKEFELLER and I have added a technical correction to the bill that would clarify how adoption assistance payments are distributed. Prior to January 23, 2001, title IV-E adoption assistance payments were available to parents adopting children who met three special needs criteria, regardless of whether a child was placed by a private agency or the State foster care system. Unfortunately, some private agencies were using only one of the three special needs criteria to access payments for these adoptive families.

The January 23 adoption assistance decision draws a distinction between private and State foster care systems to prevent the misuse of funds. However, the decision has had the unintended consequence of adversely affecting agencies such as Catholic Charities and their ability to provide adoptive families with payments. Our correction focuses on the children—not the placement agency—by making special needs children adopted through voluntary relinquishment eligible for adoption assistance payments.

I am particularly pleased with some of the President's new initiatives authorized in our bill. For example, the Department of Health and Human Services be authorized to provide competitive grants to support mentoring programs for children of incarcerated parents. With more than 2 million children with incarcerated parents, this program would provide valuable outreach to this vulnerable group of children.

I thank my colleagues for supporting our bill today. This is a good bill. It is an important bill. It is a major step forward in our continuing efforts to protect all children in this Nation.

AMBASSADOR STEPHAN M.
MINIKES

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I take this opportunity to welcome the recent swearing-in of Stephan M. Minikes to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE. Prior to that ceremony, I met with Steve to dis-

cuss priority issues on the Commission's agenda, including the promotion of democracy, human rights and economic liberty as well as such pressing concerns as international crime and corruption and their links to terrorism.

The Commission remains keenly interested in the OSCE as a tool for promoting human rights and democratic development and advancing United States interests in the expansive 55-nation OSCE region. The terrorist attacks of September 11 represented an assault on the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law—core principles at the heart of the OSCE. It is crucial that we redouble our efforts to advance these fundamental principles throughout the OSCE region even as we pursue practical cooperation aimed at rooting out terrorism.

The OSCE provides an important framework for advancing these vital and complementary objectives.

I am confident that Steve will draw on his extensive and varied experiences as he assumes his duties as U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE and I look forward to working with him and his team in Vienna.

I ask unanimous consent that Secretary of State Powell's eloquent prepared remarks delivered at Ambassador Minikes' swearing-in ceremony be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN L. POWELL AT THE SWEARING-IN OF STEPHAN M. MINIKES

Ambassador Ducaru, Distinguished Guests, welcome to The Department of State.

It is my honor and pleasure today to swear-in a distinguished civic leader as our next Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe: Steve Minikes.

As a boy in Nazi Germany, Steve knew what it is like to live under oppression. His relatives died in concentration camps. He saw hate consume a country, ravage a continent, and cause a world war. Later, he saw a devastated Europe divided by force and a hot war replaced by a cold one. And since the age of eleven, when he found his new home in America, Steve Minikes has never for a minute taken freedom for granted—not his or anyone else's.

And so, when President Bush selected Steve to be his personal envoy to the OSCE, he knew that he was choosing a person who would be deeply committed to the fundamental principles of the Helsinki process.

The President knew that Steve needed no convincing that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are inextricably linked to prosperity, stability and security.

And the President knew that in Steve he was choosing someone who would work hard and well to realize, in all its fullness, the dream of a Europe whole and free.

And so, Ladies and Gentlemen, Steve Minikes will bring to his new position a deep commitment to serve the country that gave him a new life, and a strong determination to help the continent of his birth attain its highest hopes.

And Steve will bring a lot more to the table besides. He will bring expertise in and out of government that spans the law, management, banking, trade, energy and defense. He will bring a reputation for excellence and dedication that extends from the corporate world to Capitol Hill, from the Pentagon to the White House, as the presence here of friends from Congress and from a wide range of federal agencies attests.

Steve also brings his experience as a Director of the Washington Opera, which will serve him very well at OSCE. Think about it. Conducting multilateral diplomacy with 54 other sovereign countries—countries as big as Russia, Germany and the United States on the one hand, and as small as Liechtenstein, San Marino and Malta on the other. And each of them with a veto. That's a lot like staging the elephant scene from *Aida*—only easier.

The American people are truly fortunate that they can count on a citizen as accomplished and admired as Steve to represent them at so important a forum as the OSCE.

I know that Steve would be the first to agree with me, however, when I say that we would not have been able to contribute so much to his community and his country, had it not been for the love and support of his family. I want to especially welcome his partner in life, Dede and their daughter Alexandra and her husband Julian. A warm greeting as well to Dede's sister Jackie and brother Peter and their families. I think they all deserve a round of applause.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Twenty-six years ago when President Ford signed the Final Act in Helsinki, he said that the Helsinki process would be judged not by the promises made but by the promises kept.

Thanks in incalculable measure to the men and women who braved totalitarian repression to ensure that the promises made in Helsinki would be kept, all 55 members of the OSCE are truly independent nations today, able to chart their own course for a new century.

The promises made in Helsinki during the Cold War and reaffirmed during the post-Cold War period, are still fundamental to European security and cooperation in this post-post Cold War world.

And, like all his predecessors from Gerald Ford to William Clinton, President Bush is strongly committed to fulfilling the promise of Helsinki.

The President and I are counting on you, Steve, to work with our fellow member states, with the various OSCE institutions that have been established, and, of course, with the Members of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to that noble end.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms remain the heart and soul of OSCE. Keep them in the spotlight. Democracy and the rule of law are key to fighting hatred, extremism and terrorism. Work with our OSCE partners, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Representative for Free Media to consolidate democratic processes and promote freedom of expression. Help OSCE foster ethnic tolerance. Help it protect human dignity by strengthening efforts against trafficking in persons.

We also look to you, Steve, with your private sector experience, to explore ways to develop OSCE's economic and environmental dimensions. OSCE has done some good work on corruption and good governance. Portugal, the incoming Chairman-in-Office, has some interesting ideas on transboundary water issues. Help us think about what else we might do.

The President and I also depend on you to utilize and strengthen OSCE's unique capacities for conflict prevention and crisis management. To work with OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities in addressing the root causes of ethnic conflict. We will also look to you to support OSCE's field missions which are contributing to stability from Tajikistan to Kosovo.

In the security dimension of OSCE, good progress has been made in meeting conventional force reduction commitments. We will count on you, Steve, to help resolve the remaining issues. The Voluntary Fund for Moldova is a valuable tool for getting rid of weapons and ammunition. Keep using it.

OSCE's action plan will be valuable in fighting terrorism. Implementation is critical. Keep the momentum going.

Institutionally speaking, OSCE's strengths remain its flexibility, the high degree of political will that is reflected in its consensus decisions, and the politically binding nature of its commitments. As OSCE considers how it might best adapt to changing needs, do not compromise these strengths. Build upon them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, next week, Steve and I will travel to Bucharest for a meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. There, the Chairmanship-in-Office will pass from the capable hands of Romania into the able hands of Portugal. And I will just as confidently witness the passing of the baton from Ambassador Johnson to Ambassador Minikes.

There is a great deal of important work ahead for the OSCE. There are still many promises to keep. And Steve, the President and I know that you will help us keep them.

You and Dede have President Bush's and my best wishes as you embark upon your new mission for our country.

And now it is my pleasure to administer the oath of office.

FREE SPEECH IN CZECH REPUBLIC

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have a keen interest in the fight against organized crime and corruption in the 55-nation OSCE region. I have raised this issue at the meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, at Commission hearings, and in meetings with United States Government and foreign officials.

The impact of organized crime in the OSCE region is not limited to some far-off land. Organized crime and corruption directly bear on United States security, economic, and political interests at home and abroad. And at the OSCE Summit held in Istanbul in 1999, the Heads of State and Government of the participating States recognized that corruption poses a serious and great threat to OSCE shared values, cutting across security, economic, and human dimensions of the OSCE.

One of the best tools at our disposal in advancing the fight against corruption is a free and independent press that can both investigate and report on possible corruption. Unfortunately, it is no surprise that journalists who report on issues related to corruption sometimes find themselves the victims

of harassment and, in extreme cases, violence.

Accordingly, I am disturbed by reports that the Czech Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Zeman, is seeking to have criminal charges brought against a political weekly, *Respekt*. Threats by the Prime Minister to shut down this publication followed the newspaper's coverage of the release of Transparency International's most recent report, *Global Corruption Report 2001*, in which the Czech Republic compared unfavorably to other former Communist countries in the region.

In fact, Peter Holub, the editor of *Respekt*, is not the only Czech journalist to get into hot water for trying to report on corruption. In January 1998, journalist Zdenek Zukal was arrested in connection with his reporting on alleged corruption in the locality of Olomouc and charged with "spreading alarming information." His case has dragged on for some four years without resolution.

I understand the government's desire to get its message out. But trying to achieve that goal by muzzling journalists and threatening them with jail time is not the way to do it. More to the point, it violates the OSCE commitments the Czech Republic has freely undertaken.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEX HALL

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to congratulate Chairman Tex Hall for his recent election as president of the National Congress of American Indians. Tex is the chairman of Three Affiliated Tribes, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, in my State of North Dakota.

As my colleagues know, the NCAI is the Nation's oldest and largest advocacy group representing Native Americans. I can vouch for my own personal experience in working with Tex that he will be a strong and persistent voice on behalf of Native Americans. Over the years, Tex and I have worked together on such issues as Indian education, Indian health care, economic development, water needs in North Dakota, and other issues. Tex has always been fighting, and rightly so, to increase the Federal Government's funding for Indian health, education, transportation, and other programs. Federal funding in these areas has been woefully inadequate, and I have been glad to join him in this fight.

A story from just last year illustrates what a strong advocate Tex is. I was working very hard with Tex to secure funding for the Four Bears Bridge, which is the only crossing point across the Missouri River for 150 miles and is especially important to the Fort Berthold Reservation because it connects the two halves of the reservation.